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Qatar joins GCC meeting after boycott

MANAMA (R) — Qatar joined a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) meeting in Bahrain on Monday after it boycotted talks of the Gulf Arab alliance interior ministers last month over border tensions with neighbouring Saudi Arabia. Bahrain's Gulf news agency said Qatar's foreign ministry undersecretary Ahmad Abdullah Al Mahmoud joined GCC officials preparing for a meeting of foreign ministers ahead of the Dec. 19 summit in Bahrain of the heads of state of Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani was quoted on Sunday as saying Qatar stayed away from the GCC interior ministers' Nov. 27 meeting in Riyadh as a "kind of gentle reproach." He said it had failed to receive adequate responses from Riyadh to unofficial complaints on five incidents between March 1993 and mid-October this year.

British Red Cross warns of disaster for Iraq's children

LONDON (AP) — The British Red Cross said Monday that Iraqis, especially children, are dying of malnutrition and illness because they are being deprived of sufficient food and medicine. "Our message is purely humanitarian — in Iraq we see appalling civilian suffering and unnecessary death, particularly among children. We cannot be silent in the face of such a tragedy," said John English, Middle East expert for the Red Cross, who returned from Iraq last week. Mr. English said conditions in Iraq were horrific and rapidly deteriorating. "In this worsening situation I am afraid that despite the enormous generosity of our donors... what we can provide is too little on all fronts. Humanitarian aid is never a solution to political impasse. The fact is that the people of Iraq are being deprived of basic human rights: Sufficient food and medicine," he said. Britain and the United States have balked at lifting United Nations sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

Hamas sweeps student elections at Gaza university

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AFP) — Candidates representing the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, won 91.48 per cent of the student union votes at the Islamic University, a Gaza stronghold of the radical group, Islamic Jihad, a smaller, radical faction which also opposes the PLO autonomy deal with Israel, followed next with 7.7 per cent, election organisers said. PLO chief Yasser Arafat's mainstream Fatah faction pulled out of the elections for the nine-member union at the last minute. The organisers reported a 62.5 per cent turnout among the 2,800 male students, but some of the votes were spoiled, accounting for a total under 100 per cent. Hamas has dominated student elections for most of the university's 14-year history, and at least two of its senior leaders are on the staff. Gaza's second, smaller university, Al Azhar, is dominated by Fatah.

World Bank may give Arabs \$1 billion in loans

CAIRO (AFP) — The World Bank said here Monday it is prepared to provide \$1 billion in loans annually to help Arab countries confront an environment crisis. It would more than double its lending starting next year if Arab governments adopt "appropriate policies" to tackle the crisis, said Carlo Koch-Weser, vice president of the World Bank's Middle East and North Africa region.

Hindawi submits resignation, cites disagreements in Cabinet over policies in post-peace era

Future of Majali's government awaits decision by King

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The future of Dr. Abdul Salam Majali's government hung in the balance yesterday as Deputy Prime Minister Thouqan Hindawi submitted his resignation, citing disagreements in the Cabinet over internal policies after the signing of the peace treaty with Israel.

His Majesty King Hussein, who returned from London yesterday, could reject Mr. Hindawi's resignation and ask him to stay on until such time when the Cabinet can be reshuffled or changed altogether. The King, on the other hand, could accept the resignation upon recommendation by the prime minister and order an immediate reshuffle, minor as it may be. The third possibility is naming a new government, either headed by Dr. Majali or a new prime minister.

The last option is less likely, analysts say, since Jordan will be hosting for the next few days the Netherlands' Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus, and because the current government has to see the 1995 budget through Parliament before its mandate runs out.

Officials contacted by the Jordan Times said they were surprised by the timing of Mr. Hindawi's resignation but did not wish to comment any further. But a former Cabinet member who spoke to the Jordan Times yesterday speculated that by making his decision to resign now, Mr. Hindawi wanted to speed up an expected decision by the Palace on the future of Dr. Majali's government.

This view was shared by some other politicians and

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Thouqan Hindawi

observers, although all agreed that no final decision would be made until the King has had time to consider the options available to him.

In his letter to the prime minister, Mr. Hindawi said

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan calls on international community not to abandon Bosnia

AMMAN (Petra) — The critical situation in Bosnia requires more serious efforts on the part of the major powers and the nations that contribute to the U.N. peacekeeping effort in that country, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, told the Cabinet Monday.

Prince Hassan said that Jordan appreciated the role and the responsibility shouldered by the U.N. peacekeeping troops in the former Yugoslavia and that Jordan hoped these forces would be provided with all the help and protection necessary to enable them to carry out their humanitarian mission.

Commenting on a statement attributed to British Foreign Secretary Douglas

Hurd about the situation in Bosnia, the Crown Prince said the statement, coming from a representative of one of the NATO alliance, should be taken seriously.

Mr. Hurd was quoted as warning Saturday that the United Nations peacekeeping force could be pulled out from Bosnia within weeks if there was no settlement to the conflict.

The government later in the day issued a statement warning that the pullout of the U.N. forces would lead to serious consequences and would lead to further bloodshed in Bosnia.

"As a country that believes in democracy, political pluralism and negotiations rather than confrontation and violence, Jordan appeals to all

peace-loving states and the United Nations to step up their efforts and contain the conflict," the government statement said.

"Having contributed to the U.N. peacekeeping force (in former Yugoslavia), Jordan is keen on ensuring protection for the peacekeepers so that they can carry out their mission," the statement added.

Jordan has 3,000 peacekeeping troops stationed in Croatia.

"The Jordanian government has been following closely on developments in Bosnia and has instructed the foreign and interior ministries, the Public Security Department and the Jordanian Armed Forces to undertake the most appropriate measures to ensure protection for the peacekeepers and to maintain constant contact with the concerned international organisations and governments in this regard," the statement said.

Expressing fear that the conflict in Bosnia could spill over to other parts of the Balkan region, the statement said that the expansion of the conflict could adversely affect six million Muslims living in Western Europe.

The government pledged to pursue contacts with European nations to guarantee the rights of the Arab and Muslim minorities living in the European continent.

Prince Hassan told the Council of Ministers that the

(Continued on page 7)

As Bihac faces imminent starvation, world leaders haggle over Bosnia

BUDAPEST (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton called Monday on Bosnian Serbs to lay down their arms and resume peace talks on the basis of a five-power plan for the war-torn republic.

But the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe summit, which seeks to strengthen the organisation's role in conflict prevention and peacekeeping, heard a bitter indictment from Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic of what he called the West's inability to defend his people.

Mr. Izetbegovic slammed U.S. Defence Secretary Wil-

liam Perry for having said the Serbs had won the war, and he accused Britain and France of backing the Serbs and hampering efforts to stop the war.

The warring parties "can perpetuate the military stand-off or they can stop spilling blood and start making peace," Mr. Clinton told the meeting of more than 50 heads of state and government here.

"The government of Bosnia-Herzegovina has made the right choice by accepting the international peace plan and agreeing to the recent calls for a ceasefire," he said.

(Continued on page 7)

Clinton, Assad discuss peace talks

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Presidents Bill Clinton of the United States and Hafez Al Assad of Syria discussed an upcoming Middle East tour by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Syria's official SANA news agency reported Monday.

SANA gave no details of the telephone conversation which took place on Sunday.

Mr. Christopher is due in Damascus Tuesday before heading to Israel and then returning to Syria on Thursday in a new bid to break the deadlock in talks over the Golan Heights, which Israel captured from Syria in the 1967 war.

The secretary of state will also hold talks with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza City on Wednesday.

Mr. Christopher, who visited Gaza in July, will meet Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres car-

lier in the day.

Meanwhile, a top Israeli official, criticising Mr. Christopher for making only periodic efforts at peace talks with Syria, called on the United States to speed up the process.

Speaking on the eve of another round of shuttle diplomacy in the region by Mr. Christopher, Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said it would take "five or six years" to iron out a peace deal at the current pace.

"I don't think the continuation of the process at this pace and in this way will bring about peace in the short time we have," he told Israel Radio.

"If (the United States) would devote time to the issue of Israel-Syria it would likely bring about a solution maybe in a shorter time," said Mr. Beilin, an outspoken dove frequently used by the government to sound out di-

plomatically difficult or politically unpopular positions.

Israeli leaders have warned that with elections scheduled in 1996, they have another year at most to reach a deal with President Assad and then sell it to a sceptical public.

The talks have been deadlocked essentially since they began at the Madrid conference in 1991. Syria demands Israel return the entire Golan Heights which it captured in 1967. Israel is reportedly offering only a partial, phased withdrawal from the strategic plateau as part of a wide-ranging package that would include dismantling Islamic militias in Syria-dominated Lebanon.

But Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Bouez said Monday he expected Mr. Christopher's mission to the

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan, Israel agree on 'temporary' mission sites

AMMAN (Agencies) — Jordanian and Israeli diplomats met on Monday to finalise plans for the opening of embassies and ceremonies for hoisting of flags in both states next Sunday.

Uri Halfon, head of the Israeli foreign ministry's embassies department, said both would open temporary missions in hotels while seeking premises and houses for their missions under the peace treaty, signed on Oct. 26.

"Hopefully then we will start a normal relationship between the two countries," he told reporters after emerging from talks with senior Jordanian diplomat Omar Al Rifai.

"We toured 12 sites today in various districts of Amman and we are to check another eight Monday," Mr. Halfon had told AFP on Sunday.

"One of the offers was a 2,000 square metre villa for \$220,000 per annum... this is too much," he said.

"What we are looking for is in the region of some 1,000 square metres, with a reasonable price."

The Jordanian and Israeli ambassadors will formally take up their positions in about six weeks.

Mr. Halfon said the Israeli and Jordanian missions would open in Amman and Tel Aviv at around 1100 local time (0900 GMT) and 1500 local time (1300 GMT) respectively.

Jordan, still to choose a charge d'affaires, will initially send first secretary Ramez Qoussous and attache Omar Al Nahar to run the mission.

Mr. Halfon said Israeli



King, Queen return home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home Monday following a several-day private visit to the United Kingdom. The King and Queen were received at the airport by Their Royal Highnesses Prince Mohammad and Crown Prince Hassan.

Princess Sarvath, Prince Abdullah Ibn Al Hussein, Princess Rania Al Abdullah, and other members of the Royal family, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Cabinet members, speakers of both Houses of Parliament and other officials were also at the airport to welcome the

King and Queen. Chief of the Royal Court Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Princess Ghida Talal who accompanied the King during his U.K. visit, also returned home with the King.

Queen Beatrix, Prince Claus arrive today

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands and His Royal Highness Prince Claus arrive in Amman today at the invitation of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

The three-day state visit is intended to further enhance traditionally strong bilateral ties between the two kingdoms.

"Bilateral relations are strengthening as the Netherlands is discovering Jordan," said Charge d'Affaires of the Netherlands Embassy in Damascus Jan Schouten.

"The Dutch business delegation to Jordan last week was a good indication of this, but the intensification is not confined to the economic field, but includes areas of culture and educational exchange programmes," Mr. Schouten said.

He added that increasing numbers of Jordanian students were attending university courses in Holland and that among Dutch students there was a growing interest in and a desire to learn the Arabic language.

A press officer to the Dutch royal family, Hans Kemp, outlined the programme of events for the Queen's visit to the Kingdom.

King Hussein and Queen Noor, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath will receive Queen Beatrix and Prince Claus.

The queen will also visit Mount Nebo, the Arab Potash Company, the Dead Sea, the Royal Scientific Society and the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

On Dec. 7, Queen Beatrix will inaugurate an exhibition of works by Dutch artists at the Royal Cultural Centre.



Queen Beatrix

The Honorary Consul

General of the Netherlands

and Mrs. Abu Jaber

extend a sincere welcome to

Her Majesty Queen Beatrix

and His Royal Highness Prince Claus,

the guests of

Their Majesties

King Hussein and Queen Noor

wishing them a very pleasant stay.

Ahlan Wa Sahlan

مكتبة العامة

World Bank urges immediate Arab environment action

CAIRO (R) — Environmental problems are costing the Arab World over \$10 billion a year, almost three per cent of regional GDP, and the costs will rise unless they take action, the World Bank said in a report released on Monday.

Forty-five million of the 240 million Arabs live in cities with unacceptable levels of air pollution, 60 million do not have access to safe drinking water and less than 20 per cent of urban wastewater is treated, it said.

The World Bank was presenting the report to a two-day meeting of Arab ministers responsible for the environment, opening at Arab League headquarters in Cairo on Monday.

"The costs of environmental problems are already high and the cost of inaction is higher," it says.

"A rough analysis... indicates that the costs of natural resource degradation, health damage from air and water pollution and lost tourism alone amount to more than \$10 billion per year. More than half of these costs are on account of the impact on human health," it adds.

The pressures of land and water are especially acute, with nine Arab countries consuming more than 100 per cent of their renewable water. "The promise of cheap water and oil for all and unlimited arable land can no longer be fulfilled," it says.

If current trends continue to the year 2005, the Arab World will have more than 320 million people, 115 million of them will live in highly polluted cities and the level

of industrial pollutants such as sulphur dioxide and the oxides of nitrogen will increase by more than 50 per cent, it says.

"This will have adverse social impacts, including health problems which will impair children's learning capacity, reduce labour productivity and overall human well-being and could adversely affect the growth potential of tourism," it adds.

In response, the World Bank recommends a mixture of institutional reforms, changes in pricing and subsidy policies and the gradual elimination of highly polluting industries.

Governments should raise water prices, phase out subsidies on energy, fertilisers and pesticides, provide incentives for clean technologies and enforce "the principle of the polluter pays" to all new projects, it says.

The net direct cost of investment in saving the environment in the Arab World would come to between \$60 billion and \$85 billion over the next 10 years, the report said.

The most expensive single sector would be safe water, sanitation and urban wastewater treatment, which would cost between \$22 billion and \$25 billion.

Government could recover some of the costs by raising prices and eliminating subsidies, using pollution charges and taxing harmful additives to fuel, it says.

"Failure to act now will greatly compound the cost and complexity of later remedial efforts," the report concludes.

Kuwait University protests remarks by Islamist deputies

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait University, in a statement published Monday, protested against remarks made last week by Islamist fundamentalist lawmakers when parliament discussed a bill to segregate male and female students.

The fundamentalists, who hold 19 of the legislature's 50 seats, said last Tuesday they could not send their daughters to study in a place "plagued" by the mixing of the sexes.

"At the College of Commerce, shameful things that contradict our traditions and Sharia happen in classrooms and teachers' offices," bearded Deputy Khaled Al Adwa claimed.

A statement by the Kuwait University Council, published in the independent daily Al Qabas, hit back at the accusations.

"Some of what was said during this discussion has infringed on the rights of university students and teachers, and hurt their reputations and honour," it said.

The university council statement called on "the respected representatives of the people" to let the university dedicate its time and efforts to "building society... and serving the country."

It also said segregation could not be implemented because of a lack of classrooms and shortages of teachers and funds.



PRINCE, PRINCESS IN FINLAND: Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Al Hussein and Princess Alia Al Faisal and their four-year-old daughter Princess Aya meet Santa Claus in Rovaniemi Sunday during their two-day stay in Finland (AFP photo)

Islamic movement targets Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (AFP) — Turkey's Islamic Party Refah is consolidating its popular appeal in Kurdish regions, offering its support for their cultural and democratic aspirations as an alternative to Kurdish movements.

Kurdish assemblymen and locally prominent Kurds in Refah (the Party of Prosperity), interviewed in various towns of the Kurdish heartland in south-eastern Turkey, said they were calling for repeal of the state of emergency imposed in 1987 and the disbanding of pro-government militia paid by the government to act as village guards.

They want district administrators currently nominated by Ankara to be elected, and are asking for education, radio and television in Kurdish.

Islam is traditionally well-entrenched in east and south-east Anatolia, where Kurds are the majority, and Refah has been a growing force there since municipal voting in March when it captured 12 of the region's 18 city halls.

It profited by the abstention of the pro-Kurdish Democratic Party, which the government subsequently disbanded in June.

Can of corruption worms is opened as Hariri crisis unfolds

BEIRUT (AFP) — Charges of corruption among veteran political figures have rocked Lebanon in the past few days, plunging the country into its darkest period since the end of the 15-year civil war.

Every day a new name is added to the list of political figures who allegedly dabbled in graft, prompting several of those implicated to break an uneasy silence and strike back.

The accusations snowballed last week when Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, stung by opposition attacks, announced his resignation late Thursday after a cabinet meeting.

Mr. Hariri's political future was still uncertain Sunday after he held talks with Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam in Damascus. Discussions were continuing Monday.

An aide accompanying Mr. Hariri said Damascus tried to persuade the prime minister to reconsider his decision, but did not present any compromise formula.

Accusations by MP Najah Wakim that the billionaire premier had been involved in shady deals during the establishment of the real estate company Solidere propelled Hariri into taking his stand which he said was "irreversible."

Mr. Hariri is a major shareholder of the company

Solidere, entrusted with rebuilding Beirut following the 1975-1990 civil war.

President Elias Hrawi has also joined the fray, pointing an accusing finger at a former prime minister, the ex-speaker of the house and the current deputy speaker of parliament, denouncing them for fiscal fraud.

The can of worms was opened when a prosecutor charged that Lebanese MP Yehiya Shamass was suspected of drug-trafficking and demanded that his parliament immunity be removed.

Parliament agreed to lift Mr. Shamass immunity at a special session on November 17 but the MP in turn accused Hrawi's son, Roy, of drug-smuggling.

He also charged that the head of Syrian intelligence services in Lebanon General Ghazi Kanaan had opened the file against him to settle old scores over a real estate dispute.

By dragging Syria into the affair Mr. Shamass broke a taboo of silence over the influence wielded in Lebanon by Damascus, which deploys 35,000 troops in the country.

The president's son protested his innocence while Shamass was locked up in jail during the investigation. A week later the president hit back with angry, unprecedented remarks, charging that former parliamentary

speaker Hussein Hussein and premier Omar Karami had made false declarations over land and property deals.

Mr. Karami went on the attack challenging Mr. Hrawi to a televised debate.

Mr. Hrawi also accused Deputy Speaker of the House Elie Ferzli of accepting bribes to exonerate former President Amin Gemayel, under investigation for alleged corruption during the purchase of French Puma helicopters in 1983.

Mr. Ferzli heads the parliamentary commission investigating the Puma sale.

Mr. Hariri also blasted "those who make accusations of corruption to cover up their own corruption and to stain others and society."

"If corruption has a (bad) smell, uprightness has a good one," he said.

"People point accusing fingers at those (militias) who became rich by robbing them and humiliating them but they know there are those who earned their wealth by the sweat of their brows," he added.

Mr. Hariri, whose personal wealth is estimated at \$4 billion, made his fortune in Saudi Arabia.

Several of his detractors have accused him and his entourage of "exploiting power for personal use and of getting a cut of dubious contracts."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bangladeshis demand Gulf jobs back

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 10,000 Bangladeshis driven home by the Gulf war staged a noisy demonstration in Dhaka on Monday demanding the government help them get their jobs and property back. Ali Ashraf Khan, president of the Kuwait-Iraq Repatriated Bangladeshis Association, said 72,000 Bangladeshis workers had been waiting to return to their jobs since the war ended nearly four years ago. "The government has neither taken any steps to give back our jobs nor tried to recover our properties that we left behind," he told a rally. The government has said nearly 30,000 of the 100,000 Bangladeshis workers in the Gulf when the war broke out have gotten their jobs back. Bangladesh has about one million expatriate workers, mostly in Arab and Gulf countries, and earns around \$900 million in remittances annually.

Man dies after 32-year refusal to divorce

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's longest-serving prisoner has died after 32-years and five weeks in jail for refusing to grant his wife a divorce, the authorities announced Monday. Yihye Avraham achieved notoriety after a rabbinical court sent him to jail in 1962. Under Jewish law, a man has to agree to divorce. Avraham had stubbornly rejected the pleading of his wife over the previous 12 years and the rabbis hoped to break his resistance with a spell behind bars. Ms. Ora, who is now 66, claimed her husband never loved her or looked after their two daughters. "I was obliged to marry him when I was 15 and we were still living in Yemen," she said. But Avraham never yielded and he was allowed out of prison only twice. Last week he was taken to a Tel Aviv hospital after a brain haemorrhage which finally killed him. The court, which repeatedly urged him to be reasonable, finally advised his release two years ago, arguing that his mind had gone. But his wife vetoed it saying he only leave prison either after granting her a divorce or "in a coffin."

Zimbabwe closes embassy in Algeria

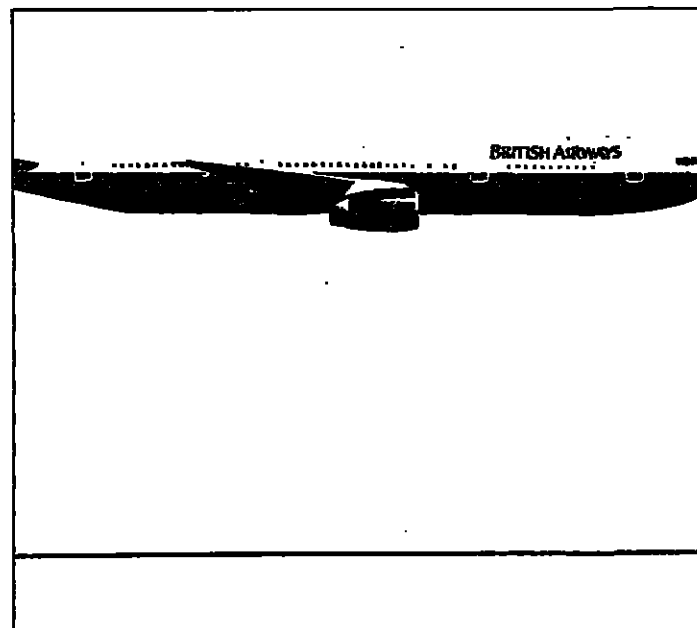
HARARE (AFP) — Zimbabwe has closed its 11-year-old diplomatic mission in Algeria because of poor trade and economic relations between the two nations, a local daily reported Monday. Foreign minister Nathan Shamuyarira told the Herald that efforts to promote trade in petroleum have failed over the years and it was found not viable for the mission to continue. Zimbabwe had intended to import petrol and oil from Algeria. Zimbabwe, in its final year of implementing the belt-tightening World Bank-backed economic reforms, early this year said it would shut any of its diplomatic missions not generating trade. Mr. Shamuyarira and the Algerian ambassador to Zimbabwe, Abdul Krim Belarbi, denied that the mission's closure had anything to do with the deteriorating security situation in Algeria. Retired Major-General Jean Maseko, who was the ambassador in Algiers, returned home last week. The Algerian embassy here, which was opened in 1980 soon after independence, however, remains operational.

3 killed in Yemen tribal fighting

SANAA (AFP) — Three tribesmen were killed and 11 others wounded in clashes between two clans locked in a land dispute in northern Yemen, tribal leaders in the region said Sunday. The Bani Nawf and Al Hamad clans, belonging to the Baqil tribal confederation, clashed Thursday and Friday, the sources said. The authorities did not try to halt the fighting by force but tried to mediate between the two sides. The clans have fought repeatedly over the past few months, but last week's clashes were the first in which deaths were reported. Northern Yemeni society is still dominated by tribal structures.

Iran deputies seek minister impeachment

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian members of parliament have called for the impeachment of mines and metals minister Mohammad Hussein Mahloujchi for alleged mismanagement and financial irregularities, the news agency IRNA reported. It said 19 deputies made their call in a letter to Parliament Speaker Ali Akbar Nateq Nouri on Sunday. The letter was read at a parliament open session in which the deputies posed 24 questions to Mr. Mahloujchi and demanded clarifications.



JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Pollards
17:30 Un Pour Tous
18:00 Embarrasment Porte
18:30 Le Vent Des Moutons
19:00 News in French
19:45 Varietas
19:50 F.B.I. The Untold Stories
20:00 World Echo
20:30 Quantum Leap
21:10 Cracking The Code
22:00 News in English
22:30 The House of Eliott
23:10 Fly By Night

PRAYER TIMES

06:54 Fajr
06:16 Sunrise/Duha
11:26 Dhur
14:13 Asr
16:36 Maghreb
17:58 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swidish, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrasanta Church Tel. 622666
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Temperatures will rise slightly with showers expected in different areas. Skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy and winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy, winds northerly moderate, and seas calm.

Min/Max. temp.
Amman 2/11
Aqaba 11/20
Deserts 2/13
Jordan Valley 12/19
Yesterday's high temperatures:

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Amman 9, Aqaba 18. Humidity readings: Amman 90 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Khalil Izmiqna 714451
Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhiab 758848
Dr. Bassim Qaddumi 648633
Dr. Yousef Abdo 694916
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fordows pharmacy 718336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Mohammad Al Khalili 273099
Alqada pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ghassan Al Faqih 906130

Khalilich pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6
Akilch Maternity, J. Amn 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mallus, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 6641714
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Mushair Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612737
Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 771011/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafich 775111/26
Army, Marja 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 686100
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hama Modern Hospital (09)909090
IBD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)75555

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)727275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)747100

AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) Information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
04:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
07:30 Damascus (RJ)
07:40 Dhahran (RJ)
09:15 Aqaba (RJ)
09:55 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

17:50 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
16:50 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:20 Vienna (OS)
17:05 Rome (AZ)
20:00 Aden (Y)
20:20 Beirut (ME)
23:20 Amsterdam (KL)
23:50 Bucharest (RO)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Aqaba (RJ)
08:15 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:00 Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
11:05 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
12:45 Paris, Brussels (RJ)
12:45 London (RJ)
20:05 Cairo (RJ)
20:30 Jeddah (RJ)
21:25 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:10 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:45 Damascus, Paris (AF)
10:15 Laraca, Rome (AZ)
13:45 Moscow, Vienna (OS)
18:05 Damascus (AZ)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in file per kg.
Apple 700/300
Banana 600
Banana (Mekummar) 620
Cabbage 150/80
Carrot 320/200
Cauliflower 350/200
Clementine 200/180
Cucumbers (large) 230/180
Cucumbers (small) 480/300
Eggplant 280/180
Garlic 550/400
Lemon 280/180
Marrow (large) 320/220
Marrow (small) 450/300
Onion (green) 340/200
Onion (dry) 420/300
Orange 600/480
Pepper (hot) 420/300
Pepper (sweet) 420/240
Potato 340/240
Radish 200/120
Spinach 320/280
Tomato 550/300

General population census to begin Saturday

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the 10 per cent census sampling successfully completed last month, the Department of Statistics is ready to go ahead with the general population census as planned for Dec. 10-15.

The population should be aware by now that starting Saturday and the following days census takers will be in the field — weather permitting," said Abdullah Abdelaziz Zoubi, executive director of the population census.

The director emphasised that census takers would be interviewing all households in Jordan, regardless of the nationality of the occupant. "Foreigners living in Jordan will be counted and recorded based on the criteria in the questionnaire," Dr. Zoubi said.

The Department of Statistics is adamant that the census provides accurate information," said Dr. Zoubi, adding that the public is not required to stay at home during these days to facilitate the census. However, census takers may make several calls to homes where occupants are unavailable in order to get a full population count.

The department is confident that it will see a "high level of cooperation from people," Dr. Zoubi said, which is demonstrated by the number of requests for census reminders — short questionnaires distributed to the population reminding them to record the number, age and sex of household occupants on a given night.

"People are also aware of our objectives now because of the campaign and the diversity of people working on the campaign," Dr. Zoubi added.

This year's population census will be Jordan's first since 1979 — during that count, Jordan's population numbered 2,137,000. Today, it is estimated at 4,000,000 — approximately ten per cent of which is assumed to be Jordanians who returned from the Gulf states during the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis.

Although the census has fallen under criticism and questioning of its purpose — some believe that given the timing, the census is politically motivated — Dr. Zoubi said the sampling is only to assess the demographic composition of Jordan.

Referring to the returnees from Kuwait and the large numbers of Palestinian refugees, he said a census is the only way to study significant population increases occurring over a short period of time as well as their effects on the social and economic situation of the country. In Jordan, he said, there is little information on these groups of people.

"The government wants to know what Jordan looks like," he said. "Politicians and planners will interpret this information, which they need. But the information will be available in full to the people outside the department. We will publicise this information."

A copy of the census questionnaire obtained by the Jordan Times showed that the census itself is divided into five categories: identification information, buildings information, housing units information, household information and household occupancy information.

The first category includes information about the location of residence such as the governorate in which it is located, the district, the neighbourhood and other defining characteristics.

Second is the buildings information that will establish how buildings in Jordan are used — for example, are they used for residential or business purposes, or do they stand vacant. The second category also defines buildings by type: villa, barracks, work place, tent, and others as well as distinguishing buildings by their material composition (bricks, cut stone, concrete, asbestos, wood and others).

Housing units information is similar to the first in that it establishes the type of housing unit by the standards of the second category: villa, barracks, apartment, work place, tent and others. This category goes on to define the type of occupancy in the housing unit, by determining the type of occupancy. For example, is the unit a private or collective household, hotel, vacant, closed or under construction. It also determines the duration of occupancy or vacancy in years.

This section of the questionnaire also requests information on the tenure of the unit — do the occupants own or rent the unit? If rented, is the unit furnished or unfurnished? Is it owned by a relative? Is it free? Is it for work?

The fourth category, household information, will establish ownership of land outside of Jordan and its location. The last category will record information about the occupants of a housing unit, and, according to analysts, is the most controversial category. This section of the questionnaire asks for general information about occupants: sex, birthdate, serial number of interviewee, interviewee's relations to the head of the household, marital and educational status, nationality and religion.

In keeping with the department's need to assess migration trends, the questionnaire also asks for information regarding occupants' last place of residence, duration of residence in current place in Jordan. The questionnaire continues, asking for birth place of both mother and father, as well as the migratory status of persons in the household (i.e., Refugees since 1948? Displaced since 1967? Refugees then displaced? From the Gaza Strip? A returnee, due to the Gulf crisis?).

Dialogue to tackle ethics in government, business

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American Center will hold its English Worldnet Dialogue on ethics in government and business.

This one-hour programme will focus on setting standards of ethics in the public and commercial sectors, on legal constraints and safeguards against unethical business practices and bribery, on the negative impact of corruption on economic development and the importance of guiding ethical standards through transparency and public access to information, according to the United States Information Service (USIS).

Experts from Jordan,

Lebanon, Sri Lanka and Pakistan will discuss related issues with Stephan Potts, director of the U.S. Office of Government Ethics, and David Nassef, corporate ombudsman of Fitney Bowes Inc., said the USIS.

Abd Kharabsheh, director of the Audit Bureau and member of the Royal Commission for Administrative Reform and Mohammad Yaghi, chairman of the Department of Public Administration at the University of Jordan will represent Jordan in this programme.

The World Net Dialogue airs at 2:15 at the American Center auditorium of the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

NGO representatives learn internal, external strategies

By Cathy King
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Various strategies to improve the internal workings of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and to enhance their impact on society were concentrated on during a recent workshop.

A two-day workshop coorganised by the Jordan Environment Society (JES) and the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (FNF) and entitled "strategies for consolidating the work of NGOs" was opened on Sunday by Senator and JES Chairman Ahmad Obaidat.

Independent educational consultant Stefan Melnik, who acted as the workshop's instructor, delivered presentations on NGO contributions to public debate and democracy, generating awareness of how problems are interrelated, securing a role for NGOs and maximising the effectiveness of NGOs.

"NGOs are comprised of groups of interested people who are experts in particular fields with whom government legislators should communicate to obtain practical information," Dr. Melnik told the Jordan Times Monday.

The key to success of an NGO rests on its ability to present itself as a single voice representing a specific cause, Dr. Melnik said.

"NGOs need to recognise the importance of consensus within their organisation and during the workshop we looked at consensus promoting techniques," he said.

Dr. Melnik explained that all NGO members must be given the opportunity to express areas perceived by them as problematic. Various problems are often interlinked, to which common solutions

may be applied. Points on which there is no agreement should be omitted from plans of action, he said.

The application of such rules, he said, along with ones to control time allocated to address issues should ensure that a consensus is reached.

"NGOs should always be aware on whose behalf they are speaking. NGO members must be able to convey their message effectively and know how to campaign efficiently, focusing on priorities. This also requires a consensus of opinion," Dr. Melnik said.

From a technical angle, he emphasised the importance of simple and succinct language to improve communication. Campaigning and negotiating techniques need to be developed whereby, for example, common interests, as opposed to individual problems, are the focal point.

Problems, whether existing in industrialised or developing countries, are complex. NGOs are pools of human resources which may be drawn from to tackle these problems, Dr. Melnik said.

In turn policies can be developed and improved where many ideas are collected and considered, he added.

A FNF office was established in Jordan in 1981 and has worked with the Jordan Cooperative Association and in the promotion of media skills.

The objective of the foundation is to offer know-how rather than monetary aid; FNF offers assistance only when requested, he said.

The workshop, which ended Monday, was attended by around 30 people from eight different NGOs in Jordan.

Visiting Slovakian team looks at energy cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prospects of mutual cooperation between Jordan and the Slovak Republic in energy and electricity related fields were discussed by officials from both sides in Amman Monday.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Talal Ureigat and visiting Slovakian Minister of Economy and Trade Peter Mafvafi led their countries' delegations to the talks which covered electric power generation, alternative energy resources such as solar and wind power, and the utilisation of natural gas in generating electricity.

According to a ministry source, the two sides also explored future cooperation

in the exploitation of mineral resources and oil shale in Jordan.

The Slovakian delegation also Monday toured the Sahab Industrial City near Amman, accompanied by Fayez Suheimat, general director of the Jordanian Industrial Estates Corporation (JIEC).

In a statement following the tour, Mr. Mafvafi said that his visits and talks with Jordanian officials have paved the way for the signing of a trade and economic protocol early next year.

The protocol, he said, aims at avoiding dual taxation, encouraging trade exchanges between the two countries

Cabinet considers new law to boost investments

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government is considering proposed legislation to encourage investments which would be more practical and involve less bureaucracy in a bid to speed up investments in the country, Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf announced Monday.

Speaking following a meeting of the Economic Consultative Council, chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, Dr. Khalaf said the proposal, which is still to be debated by the Council of Ministers and Parliament, would offer investors additional incentives and consider all projects as falling under the category of "certified economic projects."

According to economist Fahed Fanek, under the present law, projects are of two categories: "certified economic projects" and "economic

projects" with the former enjoying more incentives in the form of exemptions from customs duty and income tax. Under the proposed law, he said, both categories would come under the "certified projects category" provided the projects meet a set of conditions.

In announcing the government plans, the minister said that exemptions offered to projects to be executed in less developed regions of Jordan could extend for 15 years,

while those in the Amman area could only extend for six years.

She said that the Economic Consultative Council discussed a report by the World Bank on the bank's expectations for Jordan's economy in the peace era, foreign and local investments in the King-

dom, employment of Jordanian and foreign labour and cooperation between the private and the public sectors in creating a better, more attractive climate for investments.

The council discussed means of improving the quality of locally manufactured goods in order to better compete in foreign markets and the impact of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty on the national economy, said Dr. Khalaf.

According to Dr. Fanek, after the minister prepares recommendations on the proposed law, she will submit the draft to the Cabinet which in turn will refer it to Parliament for debate and approval.

He said that barring major obstacles, the proposed law could be enacted before the end of 1995.



University of Jordan President Fawzi (DAAD). On the podium are (left to right) Gharaibeh (right) Monday addressed the German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers, Minister of Higher Education benefited from scholarships from the Rafeh Saoud and DAAD President German Academic Exchange Service Theodor Berchem

Former scholarship holders discuss German-sponsored programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Higher Education Rafeh Saoud Monday inaugurated at the University of Jordan a two-day meeting of former scholars who benefited from programmes organised by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) saying that Jordanians who have been sponsored by DAAD or have graduated from German universities were contributing to the progress and development of the Kingdom.

The minister said Jordan, which realises the need to upgrade the standards of higher education, will always do its utmost to strengthen Jordanian-European relations.

"These relations are of great value to us. We will continue to work on enhancing these ties as they promote vast opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperation between our countries," said Dr. Saoud.

"I would like to express our deep gratitude and appreciation to Germany and extend our hands as Jordanians to share and work together for the benefit of our countries, knowing that we have accomplished much and stand forward as more cooperative," he added.

Other speakers at the opening ceremony included University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh, German Ambassador to Jordan Heinrich Reimers, and DAAD President Theodor Berchem.

Dr. Gharaibeh said academic relations between Jordan and Germany have made strides in many respects over the past decades.

He said the signing of an agreement for cultural cooperation between the Jordanian and German governments paved the way for initiating academic links among research centres and institutions of higher education in both countries.

In 1980, Dr. Gharaibeh said, the German government, represented by DAAD, started German language courses at the University of Jordan.

As there was an increasing demand for these courses on the part of students, the courses were later developed into a minor, he noted.

Furthermore, added Dr. Gharaibeh, DAAD is playing an instrumental role in sponsoring mutual exchange programmes and study visits by senior Jordanian and German scholars and in funding doctoral scholarships for university students, plus annual grants awarded to German language students to attend summer courses at German universities.

Thanking the German government and DAAD for their active support of the University of Jordan, Dr. Gharaibeh said he hoped that the meeting would usher in a new and fruitful chapter in Jordanian-German relations. German Ambassador Heinrich Reimers also delivered an address thanking the University of Jordan for hosting the party and highlighting the good relations binding Jordan and Germany in various fields.

Pure Spirit — a benefit show with a communal twist

By Amy Henderson
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Pure Spirit" is the theme of an upcoming fashion show at the American Community School (ACS). And quite aptly named, as the show, featuring 45 models from the school, redefines fashion in its own small way.

The show, produced by students and volunteers at the ACS, emphasises the participation of students, family and the importance of community service — proving that fashion does not always have to be about materialism and sexuality; the negative connotations often borne by the word "fashion," especially in the West.

Sometimes it can be about other things, including plain old fun, said Premila O'Connor, the designer and organiser of the event.

This will be the second show presented at the school, and according to Mrs. O'Connor, the response from students, parents and the community has been overwhelmingly enthusiastic — thus the theme "Pure Spirit."

"We did a show last spring," Mrs. O'Connor said, "and people have been talking about it ever since, so we thought we would do another one, but this time, instead of doing it just for fun, we are

doing it as a fund raiser."

Although Mrs. O'Connor had asked senior girls to sign up to participate, sign-up sheets were returned with names of children as young as seven and eight-years-old. "I didn't have the heart to tell them 'no,'" she said. "After all, young children are so timid, they should be encouraged when they are making efforts to assert themselves."

Mrs. O'Connor added that this is especially important in a country where women do not always have much confidence in themselves or their abilities.

She refutes any claims that such a show will teach youngsters misguided or immoral values. Quite the contrary, she says, it teaches them useful, solid values.

"This is a confidence builder," she said. "It also teaches them discipline." It has also been a plus especially for the little girls, who, she said, take their cue from the show's choreographer Pamela Alaeiddin — the owner of a local health club. "They've started asking questions about diet, nutrition and health," she said.

And because Jordan is a family-oriented society, parents have been active in supporting the event, she said. "The parents are enthu-

siastic," she said. "They've been asking what they can do to help."

A designer for more than 20 years, Mrs. O'Connor has designed the clothes to be modelled by the students, using unique materials she collects on her numerous travels abroad. "The clothes are simple, with nice lines — they aren't outrageous," she said. They should not have to be, she added, as the show's emphasis is not on fashion in the typical sense.

The community has also been active in supporting this endeavour, she said. The catwalk is being donated by Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel, and local hairdressers are volunteering their time and skills to make the production a success.

Tickets for the event are JD 3 for students and JD 5 for adults. Mrs. O'Connor said she hopes that the public finds this a small price to pay for a contribution to a worthy cause. All proceeds from the event will go to the Institute for Children's Health Development at the Noor Al Hussein Foundation.

The models make their debut at 7 p.m. on Saturday, at the American Community School. Tickets are available at ACS reception or by calling 813944/6.



إلى صالونك

Italian run-off elections deal government fresh setback

ROME (R) — The centre-left swept four of six big Italian towns in mayoral run-off races, results showed Monday, rewarding a new opposition alliance and sparking fresh tension in Prime minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition.

The most notable coup for the centre-left in Sunday's elections came in the northern town of Brescia, where former Christian Democrat leader Mino Martinazzoli scored a comfortable win over Northern League Industry Minister Vito Gnudi.

Crucially, Mr. Martinazzoli enjoyed the backing not only of his own Popular Party, successor to the scandal-ridden Christian Democrats, but also of the Democratic Party of the Left (PDS), Italy's biggest opposition grouping.

By contrast, the hard right National Alliance, an uneasy ally of the League in Mr. Berlusconi's six-month-old government, refused to endorse Mr. Gnudi.

Opposition candidates also triumphed in the northern

town of Sondrio, in Massa in Tuscany and won by a whisker in Brindisi in the south-east, a National Alliance stronghold.

The coalition parties scraped home in the Adriatic town of Pescara, while the League candidate won convincingly in the northeastern town of Treviso.

Commentators said the results signposted a route out of the political wilderness for the centre-left following its defeat by Mr. Berlusconi's Freedom Alliance in general elections last March.

"Now the opposition knows the path to follow, they know that the centre-left can appeal to the majority of voters," La Repubblica newspaper wrote Monday.

The setback sparked fresh squabbling among the main partners in billionaire Berlusconi's five-party alliance.

Umberto Bossi, outspoken leader of the League, spoke of the need to overhaul the coalition.

Government parties are

expected to examine the health of their alliance in the new year, once parliament has approved the budget for 1995, a process it must complete by Dec. 31.

"This is a strong signal that we must move rapidly to create a political set-up that is different from the one we have at present, one which reflected a moment of transition," he said.

Mr. Bossi took another swipe at media magnate Berlusconi, owner of three national television channels.

"Berlusconi has no (political) base. We can say Berlusconi has evaporated and all he has is his television channels," Mr. Bossi said.

Mr. Berlusconi's own party, Forza Italia, suffered a doubling in the first round of voting on Nov. 20 and was largely reduced to a supporting role in the run-offs.

Forza Italia accused Mr. Bossi of playing into the opposition's hands by dividing coalition partners.

"If the Freedom Alliance had presented a united front

we would have won almost everywhere," said Forza Italia Deputy Pietro Di Muccio.

"Instead, because of good old Bossi, we were divided," Prime Minister Berlusconi, attending the CSCE summit in Budapest, discounted the results and said his own opinion polls were positive.

The political future of Mr. Berlusconi, who entered politics only last January, was thrown into doubt last month when Milan magistrates put him under investigation over alleged bribes paid by companies in his Fininvest business empire to tax police.

He has denied wrongdoing and refused to resign. But commentators say this fate will be known only when parties review the future of their shaky alliance in January.

"The agenda for the next few months will not have been set by yesterday's results. What will really matter is the government crisis scheduled for after the Christmas holiday," the daily La Stampa wrote.



Survivors of the ill-fated cruise liner Achille Lauro wave from the deck of the Cyprus-registered freighter Lucy as more than 100 survivors (AFP photo)

Italy to hold inquiry into ship disaster

ROME (R) — Italy announced an official inquiry into the Achille Lauro disaster Monday after some passengers complained that the evacuation of the cruise liner was mishandled.

Transport Minister Publio Fiori, who was speaking in the northeast city of Trieste, told reporters the inquiry would try to establish the cause of the fire and how the emergency was dealt with.

"We want to understand what happened — the reasons, the causes, how people behaved," Mr. Fiori said.

"I also want to get a clear idea of how the owners behaved in assisting the evacuees. I've been told that some things didn't work as they had promised they would," he said without elaborating.

A total of 977 passengers and crew abandoned the Achille Lauro after a fire broke out in the engine room off Somalia last Wednesday. Two elderly passengers died and a third was missing. The ship sank 5,000 metres of water last Friday.

Nearly 500 survivors arrived in the Kenyan port of Mombasa Monday but many complained the liner had been unsafe and the crew scrambled for lifeboats first when the fire started. The owners, Starlauro, have rejected criticism.

Some 350 passengers including 170 South Africans, 77 Dutch, 66 Britons, eight Americans, seven Germans

and six Belgians arrived aboard three rescue ships at the end of their six-day ordeal.

They were transferred to smaller boats which carried them to the shore. Clutching orange life vests and clothes handed out before arrival in port, they landed — many soaked by a morning downpour.

Passengers, some in their eighties, staggered off gangways and were whisked to beachside hotels aboard buses. A woman wore a T-shirt with the message: "I survived the Achille Lauro."

"It was a very old boat. It shouldn't have sailed," complained Britons Raymond and Wendy Lofthouse from Yorkshire.

Asked how fire procedures went when a blaze started in the engine room when the Achille Lauro was off the Horn of Africa Wednesday, they said: "None of it worked. It was just buckets of water."

The passengers said entertainment and tour company organisers were the heroes of the evacuation but some crew men from the Achille Lauro scrambled for the first lifeboats.

"They were the first ones to leave in spottless uniforms," said a Dutchman.

Passengers also said the ship's alarm system did not work so passengers had to be roused from their cabins by banging on doors and some

lifeboats failed to swing properly into action.

Passengers aboard the tanker Chevron Perth entered Mombasa with their entertainment organisers leading them in such songs as: "Show Me The Way To Go Home, and You Are My Sunshine."

Some 148 mainly Italian crew from the Achille Lauro were due to land Monday afternoon from the oil tanker Hawaiian King.

A group of 106 cheering survivors landed in Mombasa Sunday. The liner, which was built in 1947, sank Friday.

Other survivors have landed in the Red Sea port of Djibouti and Muscat in Oman.

British passengers Arthur Morris was killed by a blow to the head as he tried to board a lifeboat after the Achille Lauro caught fire. German Gerhard Szimke died of a heart attack.

Italian Coast Guard officials said Saturday a 73-year-old Dutchman was still missing from the disaster and Dutch passenger Evertina Spiekermann died on the tanker spirit of a blocked intestine.

The first group of shipwrecked passengers and crew from the sunken cruise vessel arrived Monday in Rome.

In Alitalia 747 carrying 174 passengers and 49 crew members landed at Rome's Fiumicino Airport. It brought them from Djibouti.

Beatles album hits number one in Britain

LONDON (R) — The first Beatles album to be released in almost 25 years soared to number one in the charts Monday after only four days on sale. Live At The BBC, 56 songs recorded by the fab four for radio shows between 1962 and 1965, has been digitally remastered by Beatles producer George Martin. The album, containing some of the band's own hits and versions of rock classics, has attracted flocks of buyers in British record stores. It does not go on sale in the United States until next week. Most of the songs on it were recorded before the Beatles appeared on stage in Liverpool and the German port of Hamburg. It includes the group bantering with BBC disc jockeys as well as well-known hits such as Can't Buy Me Love, Hard Day's Night, Ticket To Ride and Love Me Do. The 56 tracks also include versions of Chuck Berry and Little Richard songs. Chartist Millward Brown top 100 artist albums for the week ending Saturday showed the Beatles at number one. Best Of albums by the Beautiful South and Bon Jovi were relegated to the number two and three spots. The Rosary, a recording of Pope John Paul II reciting Latin prayers, came in at 53rd place.

Harrods teddy bear index looking bullish

LONDON (R) — Britain's economy must be looking up: Harrods has already sold out of Christmas teddy bears. With the three weeks still to go until Christmas, the up-market London department store has sold 22,000 teddies at £19.95 (\$31.25) each — more than twice as many as at the same time last year, the Independent newspaper said. Sales of bears boomed during the economic good times in the late 1980s, only to tumble with the recession. At this stage in 1991, Harrods had sold only 6,700 teddies, the paper said.

Philadelphia gets a whale

PHILADELPHIA (R) — A young humpback whale wandered up the Delaware River to Philadelphia, putting on a show for city residents but raising concerns over its ability to return 100 miles (160 km) downriver to open ocean. The whale was spotted in the river near central Philadelphia and spent much of the afternoon swimming back and forth between two main bridges that span the Delaware. Robert Schoelkopf of the Marine Mammal Stranding Centre in Brigantine, New Jersey told KYW Radio the whale was 25-30 feet (7.6 to nine metres) long and appeared to be about a year old.

Sexual harassment bill splits Filipinos

MANILA (AFP) — Commenting on a person's anatomy and persistent, unwelcome courtship may soon become crimes punishable by jail in the Philippines, where a sexual harassment bill has split the nation along the old gender divide. Feminists, women jurists and legislators have been cheering its relatively smooth sailing through Congress, saying it would rid the workplace of lust-besotted bosses who demand sexual favours from female subordinates and display porn-star pin-ups on their walls. The bill, which looks set to become law shortly, sets hefty fines and prison terms of up to two years for "any unwanted, unwelcome or uninvited sexual advances," or other acts of a "sexual nature" against another person "whether oral or written, verbal or non-verbal." It will surely kill romance in the workplace, protest many men, who argue that most victims were flirts who had it coming to them, and claim that the law may be used for blackmail. "Mothers teach their daughters to say 'no' when they meant to signal 'yes' to amorous advances," said Hilario HERNANDEZ, President Fidel Ramos's adviser on national affairs, who argues that the bill goes against the cultural grain. Representative Luwalhati Antonino, who shepherded the bill through the sometimes hostile male-dominated lower house of Congress, says the measure is not "gender-specific" since men or homosexuals could become victims as well.

Inquiry opens into Philippine collision

MANILA (R) — The captain of a Singaporean ship involved in last week's collision with a Philippine ferry refused a request by a coast guard officer to hand over this logbooks, the officer testified Monday.

As a five-man board of marine inquiry opened an investigation into the disaster, the most senior surviving officer of the sunken ferry Cebu City pinned the blame on the Kota Suria container ship.

More than 140 people are

feared drowned after the 2,452-tonne Cebu City and the 12,549-tonne Kota Suria collided in darkness in Manila Bay before dawn Friday.

Forty-four bodies have been recovered while the rest are believed trapped in the sunken ferry. Some 453 people were saved.

Lieutenant Junior Grade Joel Garcia said he asked Captain Paquito Mirafior for the logs but the skipper refused and said he would refer the matter to the ship's lawyer.

Elpidio Jamora, a lawyer

representing the Kota Suria, said Capt. Mirafior had not handed over the logbooks because he was reserving his right to give them to the inquiry board.

Harry Hirst, a representative of the Kota Suria owners Pacific International Lines, presented the logbooks during the hearing.

Capt. Mirafior, a Filipino, is to testify Tuesday. The Cebu City's captain, Wenceslau Lampong, is believed to have gone down with his ship.

Gingrich: U.N. is a 'failed' institution

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United Nations is a failed institution with "grotesque pretensions" and the United States should rethink its commitment to the world body, future House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich said Sunday.

"The United Nations is a totally incompetent instrument anywhere that matters," Mr. Gingrich said on NBC's Meet The Press. "When you get to a serious problem with serious violence, the United Nations is literally incompetent, and it kills people by its behaviour."

The Republican's harsh critique of the United Nations was another indication of the rough road U.S.-U.N. relations face under the new Republican leadership in Congress.

Republican Sen. Jesse Helms, in line to become the next chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is a longtime foe of funding for U.N. programmes, and House Republicans, in their "contract with America," are committed to banning any U.S. forces from being put under a U.N. command.

Mr. Gingrich spoke specifically of the fiasco in Bosnia, saying the United Nations and the international community "look pathetically helpless" there. He said it has been "a terrible blow to the United Nations and a terrible blow to civilised behaviour."

He said the U.N. peacekeeping forces should be withdrawn from Bosnia, and the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims lifted.

But in general, he said the United States "should radically overhaul our entire attitude toward the United Nations."

"It is a failed institution in its current form. It has grotesque pretensions to be a world government," Mr. Gingrich said.

U.S. Republican report says military readiness is sagging

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. military readiness is sagging across all the armed services, according to a new Republican assessment.

The report, released Sunday, found army tank crews forced to pretend they were driving their tanks during training exercises; Tank commanders put in the field before they had trained with their platoons. And air force crews in Europe badly overextended by missions over Bosnia and northern Iraq.

The report, by Rep. Floyd Spence, R-S.C., also said 28 Marine and navy tactical air squadrons were forced to ground half their planes in September, and it found a decline in readiness ratings for ships in the Atlantic and Pacific fleets.

Mr. Spence, who is set to become chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, disputed Clinton

administration claims that below-par military preparedness has turned up only in isolated instances.

"Our forces are suffering through the early stages of a longer-term systemic military readiness problem that is not confined to any one quarter of a fiscal year or portion of the force," Mr. Spence said. "The damaging effects of this readiness problem are being felt all year long, throughout the force and in every service."

The 15-page report signals that congressional Republicans aren't ready to accept President Bill Clinton's assurances that the readiness problem is under control. It also signals that Republicans are dissatisfied with Mr. Clinton's proposal last week to pump \$25 billion more into defence spending over the next six years.

In a written response, the

Pentagon cited the \$25 billion commitment as the latest sign that Mr. Clinton and Defence Secretary William Perry "are committed to maintaining a high state of military readiness... the Defence Department is moving aggressively to address readiness problems when they occur."

Among other things, Deputy Defence Secretary John Deutch has asked the military service chiefs to report to him each month on readiness.

Two weeks ago the Pentagon, after repeated assurances that military forces are in top form, announced that three of 12 army combat divisions are far below par.

Administration officials said unexpected overseas actions in Haiti, Cuba and the Gulf late in the fiscal year sapped training funds for backup units and also partially blamed Congress for being slow to provide money.

Australian police kill gunman after 2 die in Melbourne shooting spree

MELBOURNE (R) — A man with financial problems randomly sprayed a Melbourne suburb with dozens of gunshots Monday, killing two people before Australian police shot him dead.

The 49-year-old man killed a fleeing woman through a window of her home and a man driving by in his car, as he roamed the streets of the northern suburb of Fawkner Monday morning with two weapons, one a semi-automatic rifle.

Police confronted the gun-

man, who they said had financial problems, after a car containing a woman and children unwittingly drove into the line of fire.

He raised his rifle at police and shouted "shoot me shoot me" police marksmen then shot him dead, ending the two-hour rampage at about 9.15 a.m.

Victoria State Police Commissioner Neil Cormie said police were forced to act to prevent a repetition of the so-called Hoddle Street massacre of 1987 when a gunman

randomly shot dead seven people walking down an inner Melbourne street.

"Although it's a great tragedy that three lives have been lost, the potential was far worse scenario than we have seen," Mr. Cormie told a news conference.

Police have not released the names of the gunman or his victims while relatives are being informed. They have been unable to establish a motive for the killing.

The gunman's age was earlier given by police as 26.

Japanese Buddhist-backed party disbands to join opposition alliance

TOKYO (AFP) — A Japanese political party founded by the country's biggest Buddhist organisation three decades ago disbanded Monday ahead of the establishment of a new opposition alliance.

Komeito, which stands for Clean Government Party, said it planned to cooperate with nine other opposition groups in forming the New Frontier Party later this week.

The Komeito, founded by

the influential Buddhist organisation Soka Gakkai in 1964, for years it was a third force between the ruling conservatives and the Socialist opposition which recently came together in a coalition alliance.

"We have made a number of remarkable achievements, including our contribution to anti-corruption moves and welfare policies," Komeito Chairman Koshiro Ishida told the party's final conven-

tion in Tokyo.

Komeito has 52 members in the lower house and 24 in the upper house.

Komeito has a member of the previous two coalitions, which governed Japan after the conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) lost power last year. But it returned to the opposition in June, when the Social Democratic Party (SDP) defected to form a new coalition with the LDP and a small centrist party.

Japan court throws out germ warfare case

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese court Monday threw out a law suit aiming to preserve suspected evidence of the Japanese army's germ warfare experiments on Chinese, Korean and Russian prisoners during World War II.

At stake is whether local authorities in Tokyo can create skulls and bones of at least 62 people unearthed in 1989 at the site of the former army medical school, headquarters of the notorious Unit 731 which carried out the experiments.

Tokyo District Court Judge Toshinobu Akiyama rejected the civil suit, which demanded that authorities halt cremation of the bones, citing technical grounds. He ruled that the plaintiffs had no grounds for a law suit because no one would incur any material damage from the act.

"There is obvious damage," said Noboru Watanabe, leader of the plaintiffs, a group demanding that the government stop attempts to whitewash wartime atrocities.

"It is untold damage to key evidence on historical and wartime records."

In rejecting the action, Judge Akiyama refused to judge the nature of the bones, a move which would

have required testimony from the central government. Nor did he rule whether the bones had any link to Unit 731.

It was the first ever Japanese court ruling related to the unit, one of the Japanese army's biggest secrets. The plaintiffs' group of researchers and lawyers said they would appeal all the way to the Supreme Court.

The group wants to conduct tests on the bones to determine, if possible, what biological experiments were carried out.

Authorities of the Tokyo district of Shinjuku, where the bones were found, said after the ruling they had no immediate plans to cremate them but said they would eventually do so.

The Japanese government has never publicly apologised for the macabre actions of Unit 731, which killed at least 3,000 prisoners of war by conducting germ and other biological experiments in Harbin, northeastern China.

The bones were found by "comfort women", sex slaves who were forced to serve in military brothels, make up some of the darkest pages of Japan's wartime atrocities.

The bones in question were found during a 1989 construc-

tion at the former site of the school in Shinjuku where the unit was known to have kept specimens of body parts for lessons.

Police forensic experts said the bones date back more than 20 years and so could not be taken up for a criminal probe because of a 15-year statute of limitations on murder cases.

The only scientific attempt at identification concluded that the bones were of northern Asians but not Japanese.

There were only skull and lower limb bones. Some skulls indicated they were from people shot or hit on the head.

Scores of former officers and workers at the unit say they believe the skulls and bones must come from the unit's specimen room which displayed human heads, limbs, arms and abdomens kept in formaldehyde in glass containers.

One of the witnesses, former unit quartermaster Ryujii Amano, recalled seeing row upon row of body parts.

"The unit was collecting these specimens from all over Asia, not just Manchuria. I have seen them many times with my own two eyes," Mr. Amano told a news conference after the ruling.

U.K. Labour would reduce scope of monarchy

LONDON (AP) — The Labour Party would drastically reduce the scope of the royal family, and end the powers of hereditary peers, a senior Labour legislator said Sunday. A newspaper report said it would do away with the monarch's constitutional powers as well.

"The changes we are talking about do not necessarily spell the end of the monarchy, not for a second, but it does mean the monarchy's role will end up being redefined," said Jack Straw, the Labour opposition's spokesman on interior issues.

"I think it will hasten the process towards a more Scandinavian monarchy, a monarchy symbolising a much more classless society. Someone who's above the political battle than has been the case hitherto," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Mr. Straw's outline — which has yet to receive formal Labour Party sanction — would reduce the royal family from about 40 people today, to about six or seven.

Targets for retirement would include Prince Andrew

and his estranged wife, the Duchess of York, the Sunday Times newspaper reported.

The Times quoted internal Labour Party documents which it said showed that Mr. Straw would also drastically reduce the constitutional powers of the queen, including her power to dissolve parliament and to make appointments without referring to parliament.

Those powers are largely theoretical — no monarch has acted against the advice of his or her prime minister in over 200 years.

A statement from the Labour Party denied the Times report, saying Labour's policy on the monarchy was not so far-reaching.

Mr. Straw also reiterated long-standing Labour Party policy, which would ban hereditary lords from voting in the House of Lords, the parliament's upper house.

The Lord's have the power to delay the implementation of non-budget bills for up to a year, which sometimes effectively kills them.

Labour is not averse to lifetime lords continuing to

vote. Those peers are appointed by the queen on the advice of the government and opposition, and represent more of a political cross section. Hereditary lords are overwhelmingly aligned with the ruling Conservative Party.

The Conservatives immediately attacked Mr. Straw's plans. "In its desperation to find some new policy ground the Labour Party has descended to undermining the very fabric of our political constitution," Michael Heseltine, president of the Board of Trade, a cabinet-level post, told the Mail On Sunday newspaper.

But the small, centrist Liberal Democrat Party backed Mr. Straw's views on the royal family. "I don't believe it needs to be as large, as expensive and all pervading as it is currently," their leader, Paddy Ashdown, told the BBC.

The Conservatives are trailing 30 points behind Labour in the polls. Elections must be held by spring, 1997.

Mr. Straw blamed the royal family for hastening the reduction in its powers.

saying the reconsideration came "given the intense publicity which the monarchy has received, not least from its own leading members."

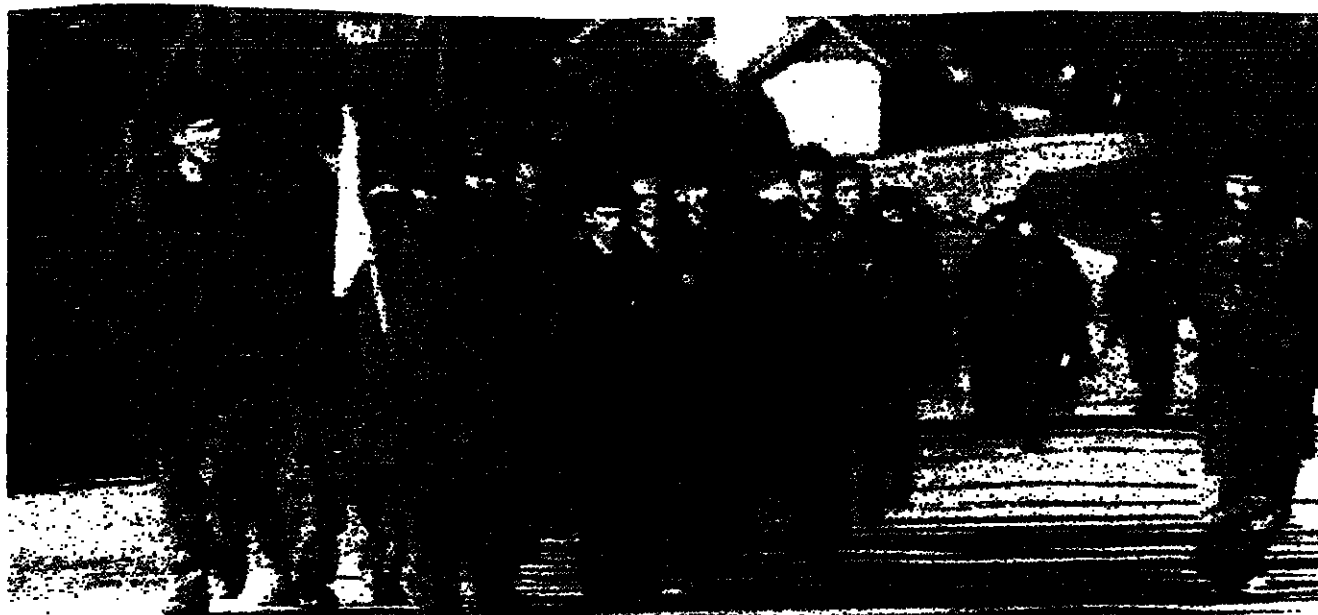
The British media has closely scrutinised the breakup of the marriages of Prince Charles and Princess Diana, often helped by embarrassing information leaked by both.

He also chided Prince Charles, the heir-apparent, for being "too strident" in his views. "If a monarch is too closely following an agenda of his or her own, then people are going to say 'what is the point of having this monarchy?'"

The Scandinavian monarchies Mr. Straw favours are purely symbolic, and keep themselves well away from political debate.

Prince Charles is reported to reject the Scandinavian model, saying it keeps royalty too remote from its subjects.

Ironically, many of the controversial issues espoused by Prince Charles, including his views on gay rights, have been addressed by the Labour Party.



Two Bosnian Serb soldiers (right) carrying Kalashnikov rifles escort a column of Bosnian Serb deserters under a white flag to prison in the village of Vinac. Vinac lies ten

kilometres south of Jajce near the west-central Bosnian town of Kupres. The Serbian forces' desertion rate has reportedly reached 17 per cent (AFP photo)

Serbs launch offensive in Bihac pocket

SARAJEVO (AFP) — Fierce fighting was reported Monday to the east of the Bihac pocket as Serb separatists launched an offensive on the town of Bosanska Krupa, U.N. spokesmen and local radio stations said.

Serb radio in Pale quoted Serb army Chief of Staff General Miroslav Milovanovic as saying that Serb forces had entered the town, on the Una River, leaving the defending government forces no room for manoeuvre.

Sarajevo Radio reported intense fighting but said the Bosnian Fifth Army Corps was resisting successfully.

U.N. Protection Force spokesman Hervé Gourmelon said the Serb forces had made slow progress, pushing the front back some distance towards the north of the pocket.

Another U.N. spokesman, Lt-Col. Jan-Dirk Von Merfeldt, said there had been "some encroachment" by the Serbs at Bosanska Krupa but noted that U.N. observers had an unclear view.

Analysts believe the Serb forces could be trying to push westwards towards Cazvin with a view to cutting the northwestern enclave in two.

Gourmelon said that 50 shells fell on the northern town of Velika Kladusa overnight, though defending government forces were still holding the line.

Sarajevo Radio said the attacks were coming from over the border with Croatia, where separatist Serbs in the neighbouring Krajina region have been assisting the Bosnian Serbs.

A Fifth Army source quoted by a local agency monitored in Zagreb said the Serbs were using incendiary bombs against Velika Kladusa, the former stronghold of dissident Muslim leader Fikret Abdic whose forces are trying to recapture the town they lost over the summer.

Serb forces backing the Muslim rebels had launched a "major" offensive against the town, the source said.

UNPROFOR spokesman in Zagreb Paul Risley confirmed that fierce fighting was under way to the north-east and south of the town, but could not confirm the use of incendiary bombs.

U.N. spokesmen reported shelling and a high level of small arms and machine-gun fire at Bihac town, the centre of a U.N.-mandated safe

area, but said front lines remained unchanged from what they were last Thursday.

Pale Radio said Serb forces "completely control" the situation around Bihac town, but Sarajevo Radio said resistance was continuing successfully.

Serb General Milan Gvero, second in command of the separatist army, complained of Bosnian Croat attacks in the western region of Glamoč.

"The Croats appear to have forgotten how much we helped their people and their army," he said.

Both Pale and Sarajevo Radio have reported Croat offensives in the western region around Livno and Glamoč, but U.N. spokesmen say they have no observers in the region to provide confirmation.

A U.N. Protection Force spokesman said here Monday Serb non-cooperation and harassment of U.N. personnel in Bosnia is a deliberate and calculated insult which the international community will tolerate only "at great cost."

The international community "should understand clearly that the Bosnian Serbs

are not only waging war against the Bosnian government... but that they are targeting UNPROFOR, detaining its personnel and denying others essential supplies," UNPROFOR civil affairs spokesman Thant Myint-U said.

"This is a deliberately designed, carefully calculated insult against the United Nations which can only be allowed to pass at great cost," he warned.

Myint-U accused the Serbs of using food as a weapon of war which was, he noted, "a violation of the most basic principles of international humanitarian law."

With winter closing in, the Bosnian Serb authorities "deserve nothing but contempt" for their denial of humanitarian aid to Bihac and other Muslim-held enclaves in Bosnia, Mr. Myint-U said.

In the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, Mr. Myint-U said, shortages had caused a marked rise in tension among the 44,000 inhabitants, and a U.N. military spokesman said there had been fighting over food among residents Sunday, though full details were not immediately available.

Russia adds pressure on Chechenya

MOSCOW (R) — Russia stepped up the pressure on the rebel region of Chechenya Monday, flying top ministers to a town near its border and accusing the Chechen leadership of harbouring international terrorists.

ITAR-TASS news agency said Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin and Sergei Stepashin, head of the counter-intelligence service, had left for Mozdok in North Ossetia, an autonomous region bordering Chechenya.

The latest events followed a big build-up of Russian troops near Chechenya, a mainly Muslim area of about one million people which unilaterally declared independence in 1991.

Chechen volunteers on the road from North Ossetia to the regional capital Grozny have begun constructing barriers against a possible invasion, throwing up makeshift anti-tank barriers along the road.

Grozny was quiet overnight and its streets were almost deserted. At least nine people died in three air raids over the town last week, the latest Friday.

Most of the Russian forces, including some 260 tanks and armoured vehicles, are concentrated in a non-man's land between North Ossetia and Ingushetia, which borders Chechenya on Russia's southern rim.

"We are here for winter exercises," said one officer, a broad grin on his face. "It has nothing to do with Chechenya."

Moscow has been flying plane loads of men and weapons to areas neighbouring Chechenya since last week, when it threatened to clamp down if the separatist government and opposition forces did not lay down their arms.

Russia has not directly intervened so far, although its troops are little more than 100 kilometres from Grozny, the regional capital and seat of government for rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev.

Chechen forces captured a number of Russian soldiers and officers after an abortive attempt to oust Mr. Dudayev 10 days ago.

Gen. Grachev told independent NTV Television's Itogi programme Sunday that the servicemen had gone to Chechenya for money and his ministry was not responsible.

The programme also



A Russian soldier walks towards his T55 tank unit positioned in a field near Chermen, North Ossetia, some 100 kilometres from the capital of the breakaway Chechen Republic. Officials

in Moscow have stated that the Russian army is concentrating troops in three major groups around Chechenya (AFP photo)

quoted Boris Polyakov, commander of the elite Kantemirov Tank Division, as saying he had sent none of his soldiers to the rebel region.

Gen. Polyakov, whose forces led the assault against hardliners in the Russian White House in October 1993, said he had resigned because counter-intelligence had enlisted men from his division to fight Mr. Dudayev without his consent.

"I can assure you that the commander of the division sent no one there," he said.

The build-up of Russian forces prompted the former chairman of the Russian parliament, Ruslan Khasbulatov, to abandon what he said were his efforts to solve the problems in Chechenya.

"Russia is bringing in troops. As you know I was always against this development in events," Mr. Khasbulatov, who has been allied with opposition leaders, said Sunday before leaving his ethnic homeland.

"My role has been made superfluous — the role of an observer of events which I can no longer influence," he said.

A senior Russian parliamentary deputy, Sergei Yushenkov, who visited Grozny last week, told reporters Mr. Dudayev had expressed readiness for talks with Russia but not at the expense of Chechen independence.

Russia's upper house will refuse to impose emergency rule in Chechenya until fighting in the separatist republic stops, Federation Council President Vladimir Shumeiko said Monday.

The council, or upper house, "will only consider an imposition of the state of emergency if the war has ended and the two warring parties lay down arms after negotiations," Mr. Shumeiko told a news conference.

Moscow does not recognise the independence of Chechenya, which announced its split from the Russian Federation in 1991, prompting a Russian economic blockade.

Under the Russian constitution, President Yeltsin can declare a state of emergency in all or part of the Russian territory but the Federation Council must

approve the decision within three days.

The council will discuss the fighting for the control of the southern Russian republic Tuesday, and will also vote on whether or not to extend until Jan. 31 a state of emergency already effective in the neighbouring republics of North Ossetia and Ingushetia, Mr. Shumeiko said.

Mr. Shumeiko, who is a close aide to Mr. Yeltsin, said the mission of Russian troops stationed on the border with Chechenya was not to fight the Chechen people but to militarily isolate the Caucasus republic.

Russian soldiers are to "bar the road to all kinds of volunteers and stop arms trafficking," he said.

Military isolation was part of a bid to bring the Chechen opposition and Mr. Dudayev to the negotiating table and stop the bloodshed. Chechenya's political status was not negotiable, he added.

Mr. Shumeiko slammed "as an unforgivable mistake" the support by unidentified Russian leaders for the Chechen opposition.

Rao party has edge in Maoist land as polls end

HYDERABAD, India (R) — Maoist guerrillas wounded a state official in a bomb attack Monday in India's southern Andhra Pradesh and two people were reported killed in group clashes as voting ended in crucial assembly polls.

Officials said about half of some 20 million people eligible to vote in 153 of the 294 state assembly seats had cast their votes. Results will be announced on Dec. 9.

But a majority of the rural voters stayed away, fearing

reprisals by the Maoist People's War Group (PWG) which vowed to disrupt the polls.

Some officials said a better than expected turnout in the Maoist stronghold had improved the chances for Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's Congress Party, which holds power now.

"Anybody defying the PWG threats would want a strong government to confront the menace. That means they would vote Congress," said a government

official in the Warangal district where voting went ahead.

Police said the polls were largely peaceful despite the Maoist threats. There were reports of stray group clashes in which at least two people were killed.

The PWG hurled a bomb at a village development official in the Nizamabad district, a Maoist stronghold.

On Sunday guerrillas set off two landmines which wounded nine policemen and

an election official, officials said.

Some 20,000 paramilitary troops were guarding polling booths and escorting voters in the Maoist areas seen by Congress as potentially decisive.

The Maoist-influenced areas straddle some 50 to 70 assembly constituencies in Andhra Pradesh, Mr. Rao's home state, where opinion polls had predicted major losses for Congress.

UNITA: Luanda talks prove commitment to peace

SAO TOME (R) — The Angolan rebel movement UNITA said Monday the start of talks in the capital Luanda on implementing a new peace accord were proof of UNITA's commitment to the deal.

A UNITA delegation arrived in Luanda Sunday for a first meeting of the Joint Political and Military Commission which will oversee the implementation of a peace accord signed in Lusaka on Nov. 20.

"This is clear proof that UNITA is determined to apply the agreement," UNITA Radio said in a broadcast monitored in the island state of Sao Tome and Principe.

"UNITA rejoices at the start of the joint commission's work and believes that the commission will safeguard the application of the

logic of the agreement," it added.

The radio said there were some ceasefire violations by the government armed forces but these had diminished.

However, it accused the government of continuing to employ Zairean, Cuban, South African and Portuguese mercenaries and said their presence in Angola was a "disturbing element" in the peace process.

The government denies that it employs mercenaries. But South African instructors — many of them veterans who once fought in support of UNITA — have assumed a prominent role in training its army and Portugal has admitted that a government-owned company has been servicing Angolan Air Force combat aircraft.

Up to 50,000 Cuban troops were once deployed in sup-

port of the Angolan government but these were withdrawn in 1989 as part of a deal to secure independence for Namibia.

Former Katangese gendarmes associated with separatist rebellions in Zaire's southern Shaba province have for years sought refuge in Angola and UNITA has frequently accused them of fighting alongside government forces in the civil war.

UNITA radio said the rebel delegation at the joint commission talks in Luanda would press for an end to hostile propaganda by the two sides to help reconciliation after 19 years of civil war.

The radio appealed to the government to allow humanitarian organisations to immediately resume food and medical aid to civilians in UNITA-held areas, particu-

larly in the northern province of Uige, the central province of Huambo and in UNITA's rear-support base of Jamba in the extreme southeast.

UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) celebrated the 28th anniversary of the start of its armed struggle against Portuguese colonial rule on Dec. 4, 1966 Sunday.

After independence in 1975, the movement founded and led by Jonas Savimbi began a war against the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola). Earlier attempts to reconcile the two sides in 1989 and 1991 both failed.

The United Nations is planning to send about 8,000 troops to Angola to oversee the peace accord, but no clear timeframe for their deployment has yet been announced.

Major faces another knife-edge vote

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major, bruised by a running battle with anti-European right-wingers, faces another revolt by members of his fractious Conservative Party Tuesday over a doubling of tax on home heating fuel.

Dissident Conservative legislators have threatened to vote with the Labour Party against plans to raise value added tax (VAT) on the fuel to 17-1/2 per cent from eight per cent, an emotive issue because it is expected to hit the poor and old most.

More than a dozen Conservatives are reported to be considering voting against the government or abstaining in the VAT vote. A major loyalist, Peter Temple-Morris, admitted Monday the vote would be a "very, very close thing."

ICRC reunites families inside Rwanda

KIGALI (AFP) — Fifteen-year-old Marie-Fleur Ingabere could hardly believe her eyes when the Red Cross brought her back together at last with the father, mother and brothers and sisters she had believed dead for eight months.

Marie-Fleur was the oldest of 13 unaccompanied Rwandan children from refugee camps in Bukavu in eastern Zaire whom the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reunited at the weekend with the families they lost amid civil war and ethnic slaughter.

Most of those the ICRC bought to the Rwandan capital Kigali appeared to come from the minority Tutsi ethnic group, which was attacked in a genocidal campaign by extremists of the Hutu majority after President Juvenal Habyarimana was killed in a suspicious plane crash on April 6.

Many of them were saved by Hutu neighbours, like four-year-old Roger, an orphan taken in by two of his aunts who found shelter at the Mille Collines Hotel in Kigali at the height of the bloodbath between April and July.

The Hutus took the Tutsi children with them when they

launched an incursion from Zaire and that the war will begin again. A friend of Marie-Therese's brother and sister said they had explained that they did not want "to come and be killed in Rwanda."

Since the beginning of October, the ICRC has carried out 140 reunions of 220 children from Bukavu with their families, but until now the meetings have taken place in Goma, the other major base town in Zaire, or in neighbouring Burundi, which has also taken in Rwandan refugees.

Meanwhile, Rwandan defence minister and former rebel leader Paul Kagame warned that government troops would launch "hot pursuit" operations into Zaire if attacked by forces of the ousted regime in exile there.

"If an offensive happens and we are sure that the Zairean authorities are implicated, we could then exercise the right to hot pursuit," General Kagame said in an interview published Monday by the Belgian daily Le Soir.

"That could lead to a regional flare-up," added Gen. Kagame, who is also Rwandan vice-president.

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Arbitration for campus dispute

THE STANDOFF between the University of Jordan officials and Students Union representatives is still brewing over the issue of whether students failing certain courses can retake them and still score a grade higher than 60 per cent. Since the university insists on putting a ceiling on the grade that students may score after repeating courses, the deadlock awaits the intervention of a third party in order to be broken.

This academic dispute would not have arisen in the first place had university officials sought to follow examples from other advanced institutions. For most people who had studied abroad have never heard of a precedent for the arbitrary ruling of the University of Jordan on this point. The rule of thumb in academia is that when a student is allowed to repeat a certain course, he or she is entitled to whatever grade he or she earns in that course. Any other ruling would appear to be unjust and irrational.

True, university students who retake certain courses are at an advantage over others who do not, simply because they are being offered another opportunity to assess their grasp of knowledge. This could be true if students were allowed to sit in again for final exams without retaking the same course all over again. But if students wish to take a course more than once, it should be their privilege to do so provided there is a limit on the number of times that this could be done. Quality education calls for screening good from mediocre students and that is why institutions of higher learning regulate such matters and have a conservative policy on the frequency of opportunities for trying again failed courses.

Under certain circumstances, we may understand if the University of Jordan decides not to give students more than one chance to study a certain course unless there is a legitimate reason, but to permit such a practice and deprive candidates of well-earned grades strikes us as grossly unfair.

If the university officials and student representatives cannot end their tug of war, however, a third party, such as the Ministry of Higher Education, must step in as a mediator. There is no justification for the ministry to stay away from this confrontation if it persists, but for a fair solution it must draw on the experiences of other universities which might have had to grapple with such an issue and resolved it to the satisfaction of everybody concerned.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily demanded from the world community to provide logical reasons for the continuation of the sanctions on the Iraqi people and for punishing millions of human beings for no reason. It has become common knowledge that the world community, with the exception of the United States and Britain is now totally convinced that the Iraqis have fully complied with all U.N. resolutions and therefore the continuation of the embargo that is starving and killing many Iraqis should be lifted as it runs contrary to the spirit of the international legitimacy, said the daily. The Arabs in general and the Iraqis in particular are now extending a hand of peace to the world only to receive a very hostile reaction while the Serbs, who continue to commit atrocities in Bosnia and insult the United Nations, are awarded for their actions and allowed to go on committing crimes, said the daily. It said that the United States bears a special responsibility in this matter and is called on to put an end to the aggression on Bosnia and lift the embargo on the Iraqi people. The continuation of the embargo and the attacks on the Bosnians, said the paper, constitute one clear facet of racism and deep hatred against the Arab and Islamic nations.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour daily Monday urged all Jordanians to cooperate with the Department of Statistics in order to make the general census a success. Mohammad Subeini said that the census, which is held 15 years after the last one, was of paramount importance for the decision-makers and the planners for socio-economic development in the Kingdom. The census would provide figures and data required for planning the construction of schools for the expected increase in the number of students, would help introduce a new election law based on the number of people in each governorate, would give indications about the labour market and the guest workers employed in the country and would reveal a huge vital amount of information required for the country's future development, said the writer.

The View from Fourth Circle

MacDonalds vs the Islamic holy warriors

By Rami G. Khouri

WESTERN AND Arab/Islamic civilisations, like two old boxers with slightly wobbly knees, are flailing away at each other in a dynamic whose precise nature and consequences are peculiarly unclear. The West, led by the U.S., and the Arab/Islamic Middle East, led by a combination of Islamist-and-Arab nationalists, both signal fear of the other; on both sides, a bizarre array of intellectual roughnecks tries to push these two huge cultures into a head-on battle.

It is increasingly common in the United States, for example, to hear and read about "Muslim holy warriors," referring to assorted activist groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the FIS in Algeria and Hizbollah in Lebanon. A controversial documentary called "Jihad in America" aired on public television in the United States last week and repeatedly referred to Islamists as "holy warriors." The imagery, of course, is chilling; it aims to paint Islamists as violent, maniacal killers bent on spilling the blood of Jews and Christians. It aptly captures the increasingly confrontational, even martial, context in which western and Arab/Islamic cultures interact with one another.

This racist, distorted depiction of Islamic culture is mirrored on the other side by Middle Easterners who view American culture as immoral, excessively materialistic, even satanic. Israel is seen as an outpost of western values, a dangerous cultural toehold in the Middle East from where promiscuous western ways will attack and conquer the Arabs and Muslims of our region. This is perceived as a cultural, rather than an economic or political, threat by many in the Middle East, who fear normalisation with Israel because of the possible cultural and civilisation consequences. Therefore, Middle Easterners react by trying to defend their culture, religion and identity, but this self-defensive self-assertion is seen by the West as a threat. The circle of fear is thus completed, the cycle of antagonism propelled forward.

There is some sort of confrontation taking place, and our challenge today is to understand its origins and causes so that we may transform it from one of cultural antagonism to respect and coexistence. A great danger in the current situation is that both the USA and most Middle Eastern states are ailing, deeply plagued by internal rot, uncertainties and fears. The U.S. is the stronger culture, and as such it is trying to solve its problems by doing what strong western cultures have done for about half a millennium — conquer and convert the rest of the world, expand their commercial markets and resources bases, create new empires.

Around 1920, the West created the modern Middle Eastern order of nation states with delightfully straight borders, and for seven decades it has used most of these states, strategically and economically, in a most profitable manner. The Middle Eastern states, meanwhile, have hit very hard times; most of them — dictatorial, indebted and increasingly thirsty — suffer socio-economic disparities and deficiencies so grave that only God, in most of their

people's eyes, can undo the many wrongs of this irritating century.

The triumphalist West, it seems, is not blind to our problems. It offers us a new solution that will magically cure us of our ailments and quickly, almost miraculously, transform us from collapsing, dependent and dizzy countries into dynamic, productive and stable countries. The West tells us that the cure is very simple: we should adopt western systems, indeed, we should become like the West.

Washington and its allies miss no opportunity to preach to the Arab/Islamic people about the virtues of western-style democracy and free market economics, about human rights standards, civil society, privatisation, women's needs, environmental protection imperatives, and mass media news and entertainment systems on the model of CNN, BBC, and USA Today. These values thrice defeated authoritarianism, totalitarianism and communism in Europe this century, we are told, and they will make us strong and healthy if we adopt them. This is the magic potion we have long sought, the elixir that will carry us into the next millennium on happy wings of hope.

All of this, however, is not really about the future; it is about the past. It is merely a new, more sophisticated and pernicious form of colonialism, a more audacious and dangerous venture than the simple colonialism of the last few centuries, when the white northern cultures used their military and technological power to occupy the lands of others and to exploit their human and natural resources. The United States now leads an outrageous but ongoing form of western cultural colonialism: it covets not only our physical and financial resources; it ultimately wants to change our very cultural values and our ancient national ethos. It tells us this is good for us, and it urges us to change our ways if we hope to live in comfort and joy.

The West wants us not only to buy western goods, but also to become westerners, in our dress, thinking, myths, and value systems. It is no longer sufficient for us to buy Coca Cola. We should also worship the gods of western materialism and consumerism that Coca Cola represents. Having seized our lands, configured our countries, and utilised our natural, financial and strategic resources over the last several centuries, the West now wants to lay claim to the last thing we can call our own — our culture, our very humanity. A few Arabs and Muslims in the Middle East happily go along with this enterprise, seeking pleasure, profit and protection in the empire of western commercialism. For most people in the Middle East, though, this is a frightening prospect.

The main instrument of resistance in this new war of cultural colonialism is culture itself — Islam, Arabism, Tribalism, ethnicity, patriarchy, communal identity and Arab/Islamic culture's many other manifestations. Culture and religion remain the last line of Arab/Islamic defense in the face of a new Western/Israeli colonial advance to

capture our identity and spirit along with our material assets.

As in the 1920s, the short-term balance of power in this war in the 1990s favours the West and its Middle Eastern strategies. In the longer term, however, this is perhaps the only battle where Arab/Islamic resources can realistically try to resist the West. We have plenty of culture and religion to draw upon, whereas in the economic, diplomatic and military confrontations with the West we have been powerless before western might.

The points of contention in this new confrontation are now clear, the battle lines drawn. On one side stand the western powers, the imperative of the new global marketplace, and their commercial and political agents in the Middle East — Arab officials and corporate powers who form our own version of the military-industrial complex, who represent the brutal convergence of the centralised military, political and economic power of the state with the more diffused power of corporate Arabia. These are, by and large, the Arab forces that invited the western armies to destroy Iraq in 1991, that beseech and pay and cheer western armies to maintain the Middle East in its frozen state, that worship the gods of 1920. They are strong because they control most of the guns, uniformed soldiers and state money in the Middle East.

They are opposed by the majority of Arabs and Muslims who seek life's meaning and dignity in places other than London and Los Angeles, in criteria more meaningful than profit-and-loss calculations, in heros and gods more profound than players of football. Most Middle Easterners reject the invitation to become only western consumers of western products. They refuse to relinquish identities and values that have served them reasonably well for thousands of years; they would even like to affirm and to live those identities and values in some measure of freedom.

They cannot match the guns or the coercive power of their states, their elites, and the West, so they fight back with the only weapons at their disposal — their God, their cultural identity, their own sense of their humanity, and their expression of their will to be free to give life to these forces within them. Many in the West and in Arab ruling elites do not want the Middle East to be defined by free and self-expressive Arabs and Muslims. They fear the assertive, defiant posture of entire Arab/Islamic societies in the 1990s; they prefer to maintain the power relationships of the 1920s.

The imperative of the West's economic survival is now pitted against the imperative of the Middle East's cultural survival — the battle of MacDonalds vs. the Islamic holy warriors. This will be a ferocious and lengthy struggle if it is allowed to play itself out. It is also unnecessary, unfortunate and an utterly idiotic way to move towards the start of the third millennium.

Status of Jerusalem is crucial for peace in the region

By Anis F. Qassim

THE RECENT denial by the Clinton administration that the U.S. has plans to build an American embassy in Jerusalem does not stand up to some facts of life that should be known by the public at large. While it is true that the process of building an embassy in Jerusalem has not started till now it is also true that an agreement was signed between the Israeli and American governments on the last day of President Ronald Reagan's administration (Jan. 18, 1989) to build two chanceries in both Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. That agreement, which is still effective, stipulates that the chancery, to be built in Jerusalem with a total area of 31,250 square metres, will be leased to the American government for 99 years with an annual rent of \$1.

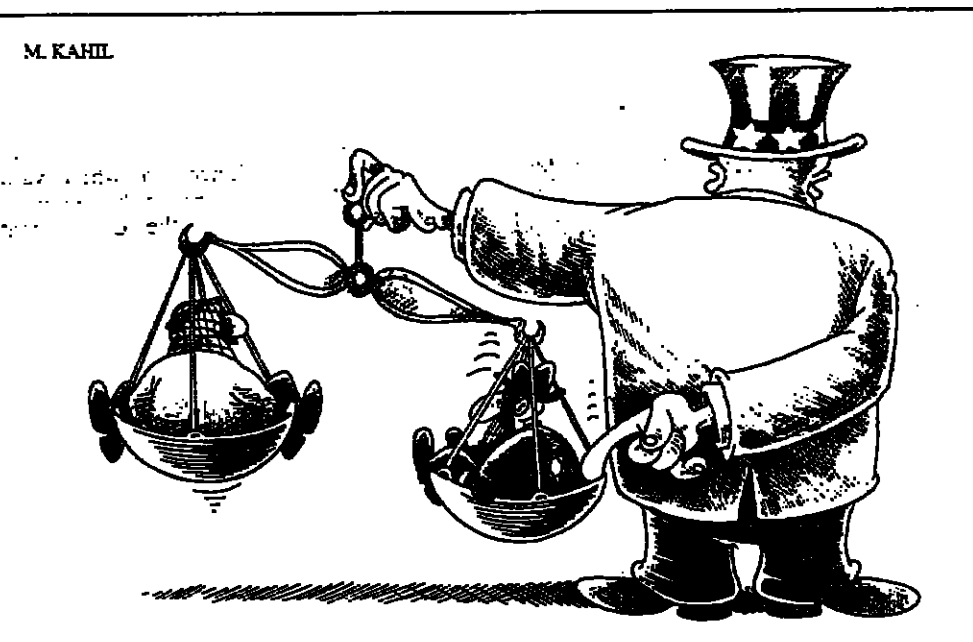
People with knowledge of the area have found out that more than half of the land area on which the Jerusalem building will stand is a Waqf (Islamic endowment) land. Namely, it belongs to the Sheikh

Mohammad Al Khalili Waqf in accordance with an endowment document issued in the Hijri year 1139, meaning more than 270 years. The late Sheikh Ishaq Musa Al Hussaini documented this Waqf and published it in 1979.

The Khalili Waqf was leased by the (British) mandate government which was paying an annual rent for beneficiaries from the Waqf, including Husniya Al Fatayani who is now over 90. I believe that she might have been the last to benefit from this Waqf property.

The American government is resorting to manoeuvres with regard to the issue of building an embassy in Jerusalem and declaring the city as the capital of Israel. Reviewing debates by the U.S. Congress reveals the following:

On July 26, 1988 an amendment to law No. 459/100 was issued and called (the Helms Amendment), named after senator (Jesse) Helms who is in line to head the Senate's Foreign Relations Committee, which is probably the most influential of all congressional committees dealing with the



issue. — The amendment states that funds will be allocated to appropriating, developing or constructing two chancery premises "in Israel, Jerusalem or the West Bank," provided that every premise is fit to be the headquarters of an ambassador or a general consul and none of the two premises

can be taken "as a premise of the ambassador or the general consul" except after the completion of the construction process. It is noteworthy that having any of the two premises serve as the ambassador's headquarters means declaring it as the headquarters of "the embassy."

— The amendment adds that the premises construction processes should end by July 1996, and \$50 million was allocated for the construction of the two premises.

— It is clear that by July 1996 one of the two premises will be chosen as the ambassador's headquarters, meaning the embassy. The

question now is whether it will be on the location that was bought in Tel Aviv or the leased site at the Sheikh Khalili property.

The Arab and Islamic worlds should be on the look out to the mid-1990 date which is a most crucial date in the campaign for the American presidency election, since the election will be held in November of that year.

All Muslims and Arabs should be alert to the danger inherent in changing the status of Jerusalem since the entity concerned with the change is a superpower, or more precisely the only superpower left in the world.

We do hope, though, that the U.S. will be reasonable and fair in handling this most sensitive issue, for the sake of peace in this region, if for nothing else.

The writer, a practising lawyer in Amman, is editor in chief of the Palestine Year Book of International Law based in Nicosia. He was legal counsel for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks from Madrid to Washington.

Stepping away from a war no outsider would fight

By Donald M. Rothberg

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With the Serbs advancing on Bihac, the West concedes it is powerless to stop them. All that remains is to find a strategy for stepping away from a war no outsider was ever willing to fight.

"There are really not good choices here," said White House Staff Chief Leon Panetta on Monday, displaying the gloomy mood of the Clinton administration concerning the former Yugoslavia.

The military threats are gone. The new emphasis is on diplomacy and threatening the Bosnian Serbs with international isolation, something they've lived with throughout the conflict.

In the search for diplomatic carrots to offer, the United States appeared ready to agree to a Serbian confederation in exchange for the Serbs' commitment to the territorial integrity of Bosnia.

What happens next in Bosnia depends in large part on what the Bosnian Serbs choose to do. Will they press their military advantage and move on other "safe havens"

such as Gorazde? Will they demand a revised peace plan that gives them more of Bosnia than the 49 per cent put forward by the United States and its allies?

No matter how the terrible conflict is resolved, the Clinton administration is in for an extended period of second-guessing.

Sen. Richard Lugar, Republican from Indiana, a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, predicted the new Republican majority in Congress would examine how the situation in Bosnia got to where it is, particularly regarding the role of the United Nations.

Mr. Lugar also said it was time to extricate the U.N. forces from Bosnia, end the arms embargo against the Bosnian government and begin "extensive air strikes that indicate that NATO does amount to something."

Incoming Senate majority leader Bob Dole, Republican from Kansas, flew to Brussels Monday to meet with NATO officials, and he made clear his frustration with the United Nations, which is catching a lot of heat in Capitol Hill for preventing NATO from taking tougher military

action. British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said that he and Prime Minister John Major would meet Mr. Dole on Wednesday and emphasise British opposition to a stepped-up air campaign.

Mr. Dole also made it clear the new Congress would be "taking a hard look at what we spend in the United Nations."

The Kansas senator conceded that miscalculations on how to deal with the breakup of Yugoslavia began during the Bush administration.

"I think we gave the wrong signals to the Serbs," he told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday. "But it got worse and worse and worse, because President Clinton couldn't decide what to do, and didn't do anything."

George Kenny, who quit the State Department during the Bush administration because he wanted tougher U.S. action against the Serbs, now sides with the British and French view of the futility of military action.

As for U.S. involvement, Mr. Kenny said: "If we're really not going to do anything constructive and we're just muddling along hoping somehow things will work

out, it's probably better for us to leave."

Mr. Kenny argues that the United States "completely miscalculated what would happen if the Serbs went on the offensive," he said that all the talk in Washington about supplying arms to the Bosnian government, encouraged it to launch an offensive in the Bihac area. After surprising early success, the Bosnian gains were swept away by a Serb counteroffensive.

Marshall Harris, another State Department dissident who resigned during the Clinton administration, still believes in western military power.

"We can still turn everything around on a dime if we wanted to," he said.

The administration continues to place great stock in the possibility that the Serbian government in Belgrade will maintain pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to accept a negotiated settlement. For months, the administration has hoped futilely that Serbian leader Slobodan Milosevic could force his Bosnian brethren to give up much of what they have taken.

LETTERS

Thorny issue for the subcontinent

To the Editor:

I read with interest an item that appeared in the Jordan Times quoting an AFP report on India calling for dialogue with Pakistan (Dec. 1, 1994).

As one who follows developments in the Indian subcontinent, I feel constrained to "balance" what appears to be a one-sided view. It appears to me that Indian Foreign Secretary Kris Srinivasan's offer to hold talks with Pakistan was designed more to diffuse international pressure on Kashmir arising from its iron-fist operation in occupied Kashmir.

Pakistan and India have already held seven rounds of talks, characterised by Indian evasiveness before the talks, intransigence during the talks and obfuscation after the talks. If indeed the Indians are serious about resolving the issues between the two countries, the sticking point of Kashmir must be addressed.

In this instance, Mr. Srinivasan should have clearly stated that India would discuss the issue of Kashmir as a suspect of the Simla agreement of 1972, under the auspices of which India asks for "holding talks" when it deems this necessary to appease external pressures.

Dr. Munir Siyam,
P.O. Box 91860,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Liner survivors hail director as heroine

By Bernard Edinger
Reuter

ABOARD USS GETTYSBURG — Survivors from the doomed liner Achille Lauro said on Sunday they owed their lives to its cruise director and her staff, who calmly shepherded passengers into groups to evacuate the blazing ship.

Tour guides Renate Strumberger and Elfi Hettwer said Nadia Eckhard, the South African cruise director, was the heroine of the disaster.

"Nadia and her team, both South Africans and Britons, whose job really was to organise entertainment and everyday life for the passengers, is the real heroine of the fire," said Ms. Hettwer. "They organised the passengers into nationality groups so everyone would understand orders in their own language and they're the ones who really handled the evacuation," said Ms. Hettwer, who is from Bamberg, Germany.

Survivors lined the decks

of the U.S. navy cruiser Gettysburg as it brought them to safety in the Red Sea port of Djibouti on Sunday. Many wore civilian clothing donated by the crew or parts of U.S. navy uniforms from the ship's stores.

Ms. Strumberger, a 27-year-old from Kaernten, Austria, was still guiding them — wearing a Detroit Pistons basketball team sweatshirt donated by the crew.

Among her wards was the widow of Gerhard Szimke, 67, of Berlin, who died of a heart attack during the initial hours of the blaze and whose body was still aboard the Achille Lauro when it sank in the Indian Ocean on Friday.

"Everyone has been very protective of Mrs. Szimke. It's very sad, because they had no children and now she's suddenly all alone," Ms. Strumberger said.

A Briton also died when he was struck on the head as he boarded a lifeboat. Italian coastguard officials said on Sunday that an elderly Dutchwoman had died after falling ill on a rescue vessel and a Dutchman was still

missing. While some French, Italians and Swiss were aboard the Gettysburg, about 130 of the 165 survivors were German, mostly members of the same tour group.

Nearly 1,000 passengers and crew abandoned the Achille Lauro on Wednesday after a fire broke out in the engine room and they were transferred to 10 rescue ships off the coast of Somalia. The blue-hulled liner sank after a final explosion ripped through its bows at dusk on Friday.

Other rescue ships were bringing survivors to the Kenyan port of Mombasa on Sunday.

Those aboard the Gettysburg praised the generosity of its crew when they spoke to reporters who arrived on a French military helicopter while the missile-launching cruiser was still at sea.

"The crew were absolutely marvellous," said British-born Allison Panne, from Maidenhead, England, who was aboard the Achille Lauro with her Italian husband, Luigi, and their children Andrew, seven, and Alexan-

der, three. They live in Sorrento, Italy.

Alexander celebrated his seventh birthday aboard the Gettysburg on Saturday and was showered with gifts by the crew.

"It was great. I got some computer games and a big cake," said Alexander, who was wearing a baseball cap with the name Gettysburg on it.

The arrival of the survivors aboard the Gettysburg was also a shock to its crew, who were on a six-month mission from their base near Jacksonville, Florida.

"When we saw the Achille Lauro on fire at sea, it was like a nightmare on earth," said Petty Officer Lewis Mullins, 28, of Detroit, Michigan.

Cook Robert Butts, 27, of Nashville, Tennessee, said: "This was all a blessing to us, to be able to help. Many of us pine away for our families and small children back home, and helping these people who have lost their clothing and money really puts everything into perspective. Our own troubles don't seem so bad after all."

Aspin sees more non-traditional functions for U.S. military

By Jacquelyn S. Porth

WASHINGTON — The chairman of President Clinton's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board says the U.S. military will increasingly be called on to conduct "peacekeeping and peace-making" operations and to carry out other less traditional military roles in the post-cold war world.

Les Aspin, former secretary of defence and chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, said U.S. military assets have been traditionally used to protect American security and interests. But, he told participants in a recent conference sponsored by the U.S. Institute of Peace, there is a diminished threat to security "now that the Soviet Union has disappeared."

This reduced threat does not mean that the United States won't be concerned with other challenges such as dealing with terrorists, weapons proliferators and drug traffickers, but he predicted that the armed forces will become involved increasingly in the protection of "American values."

The "new world" wants to see high-profile leadership from the United States, according to Mr. Aspin, and often America is the only country with a military "capable of doing what is necessary" because it is the only one with sufficient logistics, technology and training. "So the world, much more... would rather like the United States military to get involved," he said.

The former defence secretary suggested in remarks to the conference that after an extended foreign policy debate in the United States a consensus may emerge favouring U.S. intervention

to prevent famine, ethnic cleansing or the fall of democratically elected governments, lest they be replaced by dictatorships.

"Using U.S. military assets to protect American values," he stressed, "is a different ball game from using them to protect security and... (national) interests." Most of the problems occurring in the world today, he said, involve "moral" or "values cases," and intervening in such cases may result in the United States getting involved "in the internal fights within a country as opposed to dealing with the aggression" of one country against another.

He described this new world as a much more complicated one. Preparing military intelligence for values cases is especially challenging, according to Mr. Aspin. Intelligence collection is set according to priorities, with security and national interest being high on the list, he said, but intelligence officers "don't know where (in the world) a values case is going to crop up." Rwanda, for example, Mr. Aspin said, keeps bouncing up and down on the intelligence priority list depending on changing circumstances there.

Intervention in values cases also "scrambles" the military's domestic debate, he noted. Those Americans who tend to be hawks on the use of military for security issues, he explained, tend to be "dovish on the values agenda." Those who might be doves on a possible military intervention in Bosnia, for example, might be hawks when it came to considering a possible humanitarian intervention in Somalia. "It's a scrambled world," Mr. Aspin said, "and if you don't

believe it just ask the Catholic Church or the Black caucus."

"The values agenda" is frequently driven by the spotlight of major news media such as CNN, Mr. Aspin noted. He also warned that the general public can change its mind often and quickly when reacting to values cases. The public may accept loss of life if U.S. soldiers are deployed for interventions associated with defending U.S. security or interests, he suggested, but may not if they are thought to be dying exclusively for American values.

The U.S. military is concerned about the signals sent to hostile forces when American forces are deployed and then quickly withdrawn when public opinion turns negative as it did in Somalia. "The military," Mr. Aspin said, worries about the possibility of decisions regarding deployments being manipulated through the media.

The U.S. military, Mr. Aspin noted, "is not anxious" to be involved in operations which are not tied to U.S. security and interests and are "generally uncomfortable" supporting missions tied to protecting American values, largely because it impinges on military readiness and is considered closer to "police work" than soldiering.

He suggested that the United States may want to explore the idea of developing a "Foreign Legion" concept whereby U.S. military units would be devoted to traditional duties while other units would be tasked with international policing functions. Alternatively, Mr. Aspin sug-

gested the possibility of using reserve forces for peacekeeping functions abroad where danger is highly unlikely.

He also suggested consideration be given to sharing the workload on values cases with other nations so that the U.S. military would be responsible for the tasks it does best, such as intelligence, logistics and communications, while leaving other aspects of the mission, including manpower, to the militaries of other nations. A United Nations international police force concept could be creatively employed, he said, although he had no recommendations on who would pay for it.

Mr. Aspin urged the development of an "overall philosophy" which will provide guidance on when values cases should be embraced. He said the United States needs a framework to decide which values cases are sufficiently important to tackle and which should be ignored.

When dealing with values cases it is imperative, he said, to think through "the exit strategy" ahead of time. U.S. military forces should either withdraw when the mission is complete or have an established timetable for withdrawal.

Intervention in values cases is most likely to fail if the mission is not understood fully at the beginning or its changing circumstances are not recognised, he said. It may also be doomed to failure if the scope of the problem or opposition to outside intervention is underestimated, he added.

United States Information Agency.

Top Israeli negotiator with Palestinians resigns

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel's chief autonomy negotiator General Danny Rothchild said his resignation Monday on the eve of the start of autonomy talks with the PLO was motivated by personal reasons.

Gen. Rothchild told reporters: "I have thought out this decision for personal reasons for a long time, and I took it after many consultations with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin."

"I neither feel anger nor resentment, and I still support the accord with the Palestinians. I even believe there is no alternative to this accord."

Negotiations in Cairo will go on as scheduled on Tuesday with General Gadi Zohar, head of the military administration on the occu-

pled West Bank, taking over the Israeli delegation.

Gen. Rothchild said he chose to step down at the current stage of negotiations "because it would not have been right to begin negotiations on the second phase of the autonomy accords, then abandon them during the current phase."

Gen. Rothchild, 48, was the army's coordinator of activities in the occupied territories for the last four years and worked in military intelligence during the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Rabin, also defence minister, accepted Gen. Rothchild's letter of resignation.

Meanwhile, Mr. Rabin has said that the Jewish settlements in the occupied territories were a "military dis-

aster." "Most of the settlements were built for political reasons, but militarily they are a disaster," Mr. Rabin told parliament's defence and foreign affairs committee, according to a spokesman.

The comments came on the eve of fresh negotiations with the PLO on the army's redeployment on the West Bank to allow Palestinian elections to take place in line with the self-rule accords.

Israel is seeking to limit the redeployment outside built-up areas for fear of exposing the 120,000 settlers to attack.

Mr. Rabin said one way of reducing the risks was to build new roads for settlers around the Palestinian towns which will be patrolled by Palestinian police under the

next phase of autonomy.

The government has already earmarked \$10 million to construct routes around the towns, Mr. Rabin added.

Despite the reluctance to pull troops back on the West Bank, Mr. Rabin stressed that Israel would stick to the autonomy agreement having signed it.

But he added: "Before (Palestinian) elections I expect that the Palestinian Authority keeps its promise to abolish the clauses in the PLO covenant calling for the destruction of Israel."

Mr. Rabin said the number of Israelis killed by Palestinians on the West Bank had fallen to eight this year compared with 23 in 1993 while in Gaza the figures were 10 compared with 21.

World leaders haggle over Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

sweeten it by suggesting the Serbs be allowed to join a confederation with Serbia proper. The Bosnian government has rejected this.

In his speech Mr. Izetbegovic launched a thinly veiled attack on Mr. Perry for having said the Bosnian Serbs had won the war.

"With cynicism, a ranking personality from a major country said: 'The Serbs are the winners.' As if it was a football match, as if to blow the final whistle," said the Bosnian leader.

Mr. Perry had conceded in a television interview on Nov. 27 that the Bosnian Serbs "have demonstrated military superiority on the ground," adding there was "no prospect" Muslim forces would be able to recapture territory from the Serbs.

Mr. Izetbegovic also lashed out at Russia for allowing fuel to reach Serb forces, while food supplies were not reaching the embattled Muslim enclave of Bihać, in the northwest of the country.

"The U.N. has been discredited, NATO ruined and the Europeans demoralised" in the conflict characterised by "incapacity, hesitation and even ill-will on the part of the West," Western relations with the Muslim world would never be the same, Mr. Izetbegovic said.

The fall of Bihać — nominally a U.N.-protected "safe area" in northwestern Bosnia

— would be of global significance, he warned.

Mr. Clinton and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl meanwhile called Monday for the opening of corridors into Bihać to allow aid to be brought in to the 100,000 people trapped in the town, a German government source said.

U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official Monique Tuffelli warned Monday that starvation would stalk the city within days.

Ms. Tuffelli, who had spent more than a year in Bihać, returned to Zagreb Monday on a U.N. convoy that returned to the Croatian capital after bringing desperately-needed supplies to the 1,200-strong U.N. Bangladeshi battalion in Bihać at the weekend.

She told a news conference at UNHCR headquarters in Zagreb that aid workers were extremely frustrated at not being able to deliver aid to more than 180,000 civilians trapped in the enclave.

"The last distribution of food for the population took place in June and all we had in emergency stocks has been delivered," she said.

The opening of corridors for humanitarian aid was due to figure in a "declaration on Bihać" expected to be adopted by the summit along with a second, more general declaration on the situation in Bosnia.

Prime Minister John Major warned Monday Britain would have to withdraw its troops from Bosnia if they faced unacceptable risks or were unable to do their humanitarian and peacekeeping jobs.

Warning "there is not much time left," he said there would be tragedy if the situation on the ground made its mission impossible and forced it to withdraw.

"There will be more fighting, probably on a scale that spills over to neighbouring countries," said.

Meanwhile French President Francois Mitterrand issued sharply worded criticism of Washington Monday over U.S. policy in Bosnia and its support for rapid expansion of NATO membership despite Russian opposition.

Mr. Mitterrand, who did not mention the United States by name, said the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation had failed to take into account Russia's historic fear of being surrounded.

The 78-year-old French leader, who held 30 minutes of talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the expansion of NATO eastwards "means to the Russians that the West's military border is approaching theirs, which cannot be denied."

"Nothing could be worse than to give the impression that we are recreating the blocs" which existed during the cold war, he added.

The alliance, which is dominated by the Americans, last week decided to push ahead with plans to consider how to admit new members from central eastern Europe.

France is a member of NATO but left the alliance's integrated military command in 1966 saying it wanted to pursue an independent line.

In comments laced with irony, the president attacked "magnificent speeches in which free people are encouraged to defend those who have right on their side," adding "but I see fewer of them on the ground."

That was a reference to U.S. calls for stronger military action by NATO to punish Bosnian Serb attacks on U.N.-declared "safe areas," notably in Bihać, but Washington's refusal to commit ground troops to peacekeeping duties in Bosnia.

U.S. policy in Bosnia has angered France and Britain, who both have large peacekeeping contingents in Bosnia and who fear a hard-line response to the Serbs will put their forces at risk.

Mr. Mitterrand said there was "no CSCE solidarity" over the situation in the former Yugoslavia, adding "the CSCE has failed on the ground."

He brushed off earlier criticism of French policy in Bosnia by Bosnian President Izetbegovic, saying "many things are said, in my view for no real reason, except propaganda."

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Clinton, Assad discuss peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

region will help keep Arab-Israeli peace talks moving.

"Mr. Christopher's visit to the Middle East will help at least to maintain the speed of this peace process, even if we don't expect... a very great success," Mr. Bouez told reporters.

Mr. Christopher is not expected to visit Lebanon on his latest trip.

Israeli troops have occupied a 1,100-square-kilometre border strip in South Lebanon since 1985 as a "security zone" against guerrilla attacks.

Lebanon wants Israel to

withdraw completely from the occupied sector and has said it will deploy its army in the south to halt guerrilla attacks only after a pullout.

Mr. Christopher has only stopped once in Lebanon since he became secretary of state in 1993.

Syrian officials usually brief Lebanese leaders on the outcome of Mr. Christopher's talks with President Assad.

Mr. Bouez said mediation in the peace talks was essential.

"I think that the two parties — the Syrians and the Israelis — are waiting for

some new ideas, for some new proposals from the secretary of state," he said.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, invited to Budapest during a European security summit, asked whether he saw any chance of progress as U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher prepared to fly to Damascus.

"Syria? No, I (am) very much in doubt," he told the Middle East Broadcasting Centre.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa issued a statement at the summit in which he

said the Middle East peace process was fragile and that "negative signs have started to show."

"The Syrian-Israeli track, as well as that between Israel and Lebanon must find fruition in the months to come or else they will become yet another sequel of the many lost opportunities in the history of the Middle East," he said.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Musa, who held talks here on Sunday, were due to meet later on Monday with other regional foreign ministers including Algeria's Mohammad Salah Dendori on the fringes of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) summit.

Hindawi submits resignation, cites disagreements

(Continued from page 1)

his unhappiness with the government's performance stemmed from its socio-economic and administrative policies that have been "shrouded in cloudiness and lack of achievement..." before and after Jordan signed the peace treaty with Israel.

"(Therefore)... I find myself unable to continue participating in the government," Mr. Hindawi, 67, wrote in his resignation letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times.

The move is likely to hurt the government of Prime Minister Majali in this month's debate in Parliament on the controversial 1995 budget for which he needs solid backing in the 80-seat House.

Mr. Hindawi wrote in his letter to Dr. Majali that he considered government policies "damaging to the country and its interests."

Mr. Hindawi, a member of the Upper House of Parliament, joined the Cabinet along with 17 ministers, in a major reshuffle on June 8 this year.

Dr. Majali's government has faced increasing charges by politicians of curbing freedoms, including banning anti-peace treaty demonstrations, and lacking clear financial and economic policies.

Others accuse it of nepotism.

Dr. Majali was widely thought to be contemplating a limited Cabinet shuffle this year or in early 1995, to remove at least one minister, Mohammad Thneibat, who opposes some articles of the treaty with Israel.

Mr. Thneibat, a minister of state, is close to Jordan's Islamic Action Front Party, the largest party in Parliament and a strident opponent of peace with Israel.

Officials said that even if Mr. Hindawi's resignation was accepted, Dr. Majali could go on without a government change until Parliament endorsed the budget later this month.

Mr. Hindawi did not attend a Cabinet meeting on Monday, part of which was chaired by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, to discuss his recent trip to several European Union countries and the situation in Bosnia (see story below).

The second in Dr. Majali's government since he took office in May 1993, was aimed at forming what observers then called a politically strong government in light of the growing parliamentary opposition to the peace process.

The reshuffle at the time was hailed as a "breakthrough" since Dr. Majali

convinced members of the House to serve on his team.

Observers at the time said Mr. Hindawi, a former deputy prime minister and Chief of the Royal Court, was a "strong politician with a clear agenda who enjoyed support and respect at the Lower House."

According to those observers, Mr. Hindawi would have played a key role in running the internal affairs of the government while Dr. Majali would have been mainly involved in handling the Kingdom's foreign policy and the peace process.

Sources close to the government, however, told the Jordan Times that Mr. Hindawi's resignation "was only a manifestation of his frustration for not going up the ladder," as the future prime minister of the upcoming government.

"He is only trying to undermine the government before he exits," maintained an official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Following is a Jordan Times translation of Mr. Hindawi's letter of resignation:

Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali,
Greetings,
On Sunday June 5, 1994 His Royal Highness Crown

Prince Hassan honoured me with a visit and conveyed to me His Majesty King Hussein's desire that I should serve as a minister in your government.

I immediately responded favourably to the King's wish, considering it an order which I should not hesitate to accept, and for which I should assume the responsibility given the prevailing circumstances when Jordan was involved in the battle of peace to regain its full sovereignty and rights.

When I took the oath to be part of the Cabinet I was fully aware that a minister is a partner, sharing the responsibilities of government and has to participate in the decision making process, to defend the government's position and to implement its resolutions even if his own views conflict with those of the government at the time when the decision was taken.

I have adopted this philosophy through my long experience as a participant in past governments for more than a quarter of a century.

I have always considered His Majesty King Hussein as a pioneer, a guide and a good example, steering the country towards truth, noble values and national pride.

Since my joining the government its two main con-

cerns have been the peace negotiations and internal affairs.

With all the complexities they entail socially, economically and administratively, and because the negotiations have been going on in reassuring channels, under direct Royal supervision, the internal affairs of the country have remained the sole responsibility of the government in general, and yours and mine as a deputy premier in particular.

While the peace process went on smoothly and rapidly resulting in Jordan regaining its sovereignty over its land and water, the internal affairs remained shrouded in obscurity.

Many of the tasks remained undone and government performance was poor, despite all the sincere but fruitless attempts exerted to put matters right.

On the domestic front matters were made so right, running parallel and in harmony with the peace process, giving it more strength and enabling it to be forceful and effective, and under all circumstances to fend off dangers resulting from any possible deterioration in the internal social and economic situation.

The futility of my attempts to rectify the internal situa-

tion was most clearly manifested at a Cabinet meeting held Saturday December 4, 1994 when remarks made by my colleagues and myself concerning internal matters went unheeded, which forced me to declare before my colleagues that I was unconvinced and unsatisfied to pursue this line of government policy which I considered damaging to the country and its interests.

For this reason I find myself unable to continue participating in the government and may I take this opportunity to express gratitude to my beneficiary King Hussein, the builder of this country and the example that I always strive to emulate. May I credit him for all that I have achieved and wish him a long and happy life.

I also express deep appreciation to Crown Prince Hassan for his continued directives to me under various circumstances and conditions.

I seize the opportunity to express my cordial and brotherly feelings and deep respect to Your Excellency, wishing you and my colleagues every success.

Please accept my utmost respect,
Signed,
Thouqan Hindawi,
5.12.1994

Jordan, Israel missions

(Continued from page 1)

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres were expected to select their first envoy to Jordan soon.

Jordan named Marwan Muasher as Jordan's ambassador to Israel.

Mr. Halton, leading a five-member team, arrived in Amman on Sunday to scout sites for an embassy and homes for diplomats and embassy staff.

The official opening on Dec. 11 comes a day after the

date set by the treaty that ended a 46-year state of war because Dec. 10 falls on Saturday, a non-working day in Israel.

Mr. Halton said Israel's embassy would be manned by around 20 people — four to five diplomats and the rest administrative and security staff.

Mr. Rifai, who visited Israel Dec. 1 to look for quarters for a diplomatic mission, has said Jordan might lease an office at a Tel Aviv hotel until it finds permanent embassy premises.

Jordan on Bosnia

(Continued from page 1)

Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, signed on Oct. 26, was just and fair ensuring the return of all Jordanian rights in land and water and that Jordan negotiated and endorsed the treaty in full exercise of its sovereignty and national interest and not in exchange for a specific price.

He said, however, that Jordan should now benefit from the new situation and embark on implementing economic and developmental projects both at the local and regional levels.

"We now have to fulfill our

role in this respect very quickly and prepare programmes for projects that would receive financing in the form of loans and grants from different sources," Prince Hassan urged.

On Jordanian-Arab relations, the Regent said that these relations should be based on rationality. He said relations with the Palestinian people would continue to be based on solid foundations. Jordan would exert all efforts possible to help the Palestinian people regain their rights in full and build the infrastructure for their national economy.

GCC countries expect customs union in 2 years

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states have made headway in attempts to unify their tariffs on imports in line with their economic pact and a customs union could materialise in two years, a senior Gulf official said Monday.

Such a unification in the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will pave the way for a common Gulf market that will give birth to one of the biggest consumer markets, GCC Secretary-General Fahim Al Qassimi said.

"We are moving towards a common GCC market although the movement is slow," Sheikh Fahim told reporters at an off-set conference in Abu Dhabi. "GCC states have made progress in unification of tariffs on foreign imports despite the existence of some obstacles. I believe they will reach a customs union in two years and this will open the door for the common Gulf market."

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — have been haggling over a customs union since they signed an historic economic agreement nearly two years after they created their political, defence and economic alliance in 1981.

Although they have succeeded in easing the movement on home-made goods, they still find it difficult to bridge the wide gap in tariffs on foreign imports.

While such members as Saudi Arabia and Bahrain impose a tariff of more than 20 per cent, the UAE enforces a duty of a maximum four per cent.

The six members, which control nearly 45 per cent of the world's proven oil reserves, have agreed in principle on a compromise of eight to 10 per cent. But Bahrain, which relies heavily on taxes given its small oil wealth, had demanded compensation for reducing the tariff.

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, also wants to keep high

duties on some products to protect its burgeoning industries.

"We found that it is very difficult to agree on a single tariff on all products. So there is a trend now to divide imported goods into groups that will be subject to different tariffs," Sheikh Fahim said. "But there is no doubt member states will suffer from losses due to the decline in some tariffs. There must be a mechanism for compensation."

Officials earlier spoke about a proposal to set up a fund to collect tax revenues and redistribute them proportionately.

GCC finance and economy ministers are due to discuss such an issue at talks in Bahrain Tuesday. They will present recommendations to their leaders who will hold their annual summit there on Dec. 19.

Apart from a customs union the 1983 economic pact called for aligning the GCC currencies and linking their stock markets, which have dramatically developed over the past decade to top \$70 billion in capitalisation.

While officials have reported headway in the stocks linkage, plans to find a joint peg for the six national currencies have been shelved on the grounds their exchange rates are close and they move freely among member states.

Experts said the main obstacle blocking the move was the Kuwaiti dinar, which is linked to a basket of major currencies. The other five currencies are effectively tied to the U.S. dollar, the official price of their oil exports.

"Regarding the proposals for a joint GCC currency, there have been plans to find a common peg. But we found out that there are no restrictions on the circulation of Gulf currencies in member states and their exchange rates are relatively stable, so the common peg has been shelved for the time being," Sheikh Fahim said.

Recovery fragile in western Europe, growth mixed in east

GENEVA (AFP) — Economic recovery in western Europe is still weak while in eastern Europe the process of reform in former communist states is consolidating unevenly, the U.N. Economic Commission for Europe said Tuesday.

Growth in North America, which is also included in the commission's region, was "modest but real" except in exceptional instances like Bosnia, prey to civil conflict, or Macedonia, embroiled in a dispute with its neighbour Greece.

In western Europe what growth there has been is essentially export-led, while at home consumption has been held back by continuing high unemployment, and fear of debt and inflation, the report said.

Even so, the commission predicts growth in gross domestic product for western Europe as a whole at between 2.25 per cent and 2.5 per cent this year, rising to around 3.0 per cent in 1995 as investment in machinery and

equipment strengthened.

For the United States the commission revised its earlier predictions of growth in 1994 from 3.5 per cent to around 4.0 per cent in the light of a broader-based recovery, but said that this would fall back to some 3.0 per cent in 1995 because of monetary factors.

In the former communist countries of eastern Europe the commission noted that partially all now had proper reform plans, but said there was a growing dichotomy between central European states and the newly-independent former Soviet republics.

In the former case the commission expressed optimism, saying growth was modest but real except in exceptional instances like Bosnia, prey to civil conflict, or Macedonia, embroiled in a dispute with its neighbour Greece.

On average, in central Europe growth this year would be 2.0 per cent, and as high as 5.0 per cent in some

countries like Poland where progress was described as "very encouraging" by commission secretary Yves Berthelot.

In Russia and other countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) with little or no coherent reform plans, the situation was much less encouraging.

Dampened by an austerity plan to curb inflation, Russian output was forecast to fall 16 per cent this year, while that of the other CIS members would be down 20 per cent on average, although it was difficult to be accurate in most cases because of the lack of reliable figures.

Mr. Berthelot also expressed disappointment at the inflow of private funds into eastern European economies from abroad over the past five years, noting that such investment tended to be a "reward" for progress already achieved rather than an initial stimulus.

UAE offset programme spurring new investment funds

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) military "offset" programme should lead to a growth in new investment funds, its chairman said Monday.

"There is a market-led demand for the creation of investment funds," Amin Badr Al Din, head of the government's UAE Offset Group, told a conference on offsets and privatisation.

The UAE, like others in the Gulf trying to diversify out of oil and gas, requires firms to create profitable enterprises in the country when they win defence contracts.

Mr. Badr Al Din said the UAE offset group was attracting large investment funds to help identify and finance the new projects. In August it announced the formation of an investment firm run by Chase Manhattan Bank N.A. with \$1 billion in capital.

It helps contractors meet

offset obligations by letting them take a stake in the fund, which identifies potential projects. It is also open to private and institutional investors.

"There are other investment funds coming into the country, some quite large, which are looking at taking advantage of the new partnerships...and the demand created in the country for privatisation and capital market development," he said.

The UAE rules require contractors to reinvest in profitable projects which will add value to the economy equivalent to 60 per cent of the original contract over a period of several years.

Companies are not allowed to set up projects which are hydrocarbons, and the programme also avoids projects which are labour-intensive or which compete with existing UAE companies.

The programme is increasing the pressure for privatisation in the Gulf Cooperation Council, especially in the UAE, and the demand for capital markets, Mr. Badr Al

Din said. Companies may also set up pre-offset projects, which means they can offer a proposal to the group and start work on the project even in the absence of a contract.

Mr. Badr Al Din said that the programme would start looking at allowing offshore offset deals with UAE partners, possibly in countries which are recipients of UAE aid.

But he emphasised this was a long way off because the market for new non-oil projects in the UAE was far from saturated.

About 600 projects have been proposed to the group and only 18 or 19 of them are overlapping, he said.

GCC Secretary-General Fahim Al Qassimi gave examples of offset programmes in Saudi Arabia — U.S. contractors setting up electronics and civil aircraft technology deals, U.K.'s Glaxo Holdings PLC constructing a pharmaceutical unit and French contractors building a gold refinery.

Tough struggle seen over head of WTO

GENEVA (R) — Trade diplomats said on Monday they feared a prolonged and possibly damaging struggle was looming between the United States, Europe and Asia over leadership of the new World Trade Organisation (WTO).

GATT envoys from different regions said positions in the contest for a WTO chief seemed to have been hardened by a high-profile declaration of support at the weekend by U.S. President Bill Clinton for Mexico's Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

"Clinton's statement will make it difficult for anyone to climb down, including the U.S. itself if it sees Salinas does not have wide enough backing," said one diplomat.

"Right now, no one is giving way and there is no sign of any of the three candidates pulling out," said another. "This could go on for a long time and that will not be a very auspicious start for the WTO."

Apart from Mr. Salinas, who stepped down from the Mexican presidency on Dec. 1 at the end of his term, the

candidates are former Italian trade minister Renato Ruggiero and South Korea's Trade Minister Kim Chul-Su.

The new body, the final barrier for which was cleared when the U.S. Congress last week ratified a treaty produced by seven years of negotiations among some 125 countries under the GATT, is due to come into existence on Jan. 1.

Over some two years, it will absorb the GATT — the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade — and be a permanent forum for trade negotiations as well as administering free trade rules.

Originally, GATT officials had hoped a WTO chief would have emerged in time for a Geneva meeting Thursday at which envoys will formally confirm the WTO launch date.

Now there is growing concern that there will be a long battle similar to that which set the United States against Europe over the past year for the leadership of the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Cooperation and De-

velopment (OECD).

GATT Director General's Peter Sutherland, who many countries would have liked to see in the WTO post, said last April he would not be a candidate, and has since insisted that he will not change his mind.

However, diplomats say there is no doubt he would stay on as interim chief if no successor is agreed by the end of the month.

Consultations among the 124 member countries of GATT over the past two months conducted by Hungary's ambassador Andras Szepesi have shown Mr. Ruggiero, the European Union flagship candidate, well in the lead, diplomats say.

The Italian, who has made at least two visits to Geneva to talk to trade envoys in the past two months, also has the backing of many former communist states and the African and Caribbean ACP group of former British and French colonies.

But under GATT practice, major decisions are taken not by majority vote but by con-

sensus and this can be blocked if even one country says no.

Backing Mr. Salinas, apart from the United States, are Canada and other Latin American countries, who may endorse him at a "summit of the Americas" in Miami this week. But some diplomats say support in the region is not totally solid.

Geneva envoys said the candidature of the Mexican, who has not yet visited GATT headquarters, had not been helped by political assassinations in Mexico this year and accusations of top-level failure to ensure full investigations.

But they agree he has good credentials as a trained economist who has steered his country through radical economic reform and could give special political clout to the WTO.

Mr. Kim, who like Mr. Ruggiero has been to Geneva twice and travelled widely to promote his candidature, is supported by Asian countries, including Japan, and Australia.

S. Korea eases foreign exchange controls

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea eased financial controls, allowing unlimited individual holdings of foreign currencies and freer foreign exchange transactions from next year, in a decision announced Monday.

Under the plan, South Koreans will be able to hold or buy up to \$10,000 worth of foreign currencies, the finance ministry said in its five-year action plan, to passed at next year's first cabinet meeting.

Direct foreign exchange transactions between foreign

stock investors and domestic securities firms, without the need for costly mediation by local banks, will also be allowed in 1995 it said.

Foreign analysts here called the ministry package "a small step," saying that South Korea had a long way to go if it wanted to fulfill its announced intention of joining the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) by 1996.

"At least it is a small step forward in a process that has a long way to go," said Steve Marvin of Ssangyong Secur-

ities. "Foreign exchange is still going to be closely monitored," added Richard Samuelson of S.G. Warburg Securities, referring to the effect on foreign investors here.

Mr. Samuelson said the fact that no precise dates had been announced for the measures was "a normal phenomenon, so that they can test the waters and build consensus" around the new measures.

"The steps are in line with the gradual process of erod-

ing previously very strict controls," he said, adding that "the major step will be when they fulfill article eight of the OECD charter — full convertibility, that will be the dramatic step."

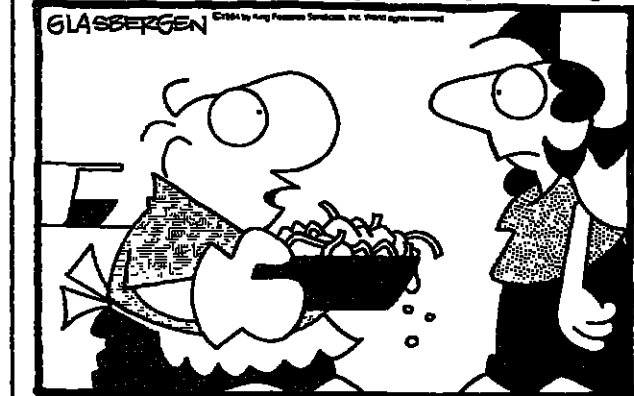
Foreigners trying to bring in foreign currency for stock investment are required now to remit the funds into Korean banks.

Other plans to take effect next year include an easing of restrictions on the limits of overseas stock investment by South Korean institutions and the floating of stock here

Iran's non-oil exports rise

NICOSIA (R) — The value of Iran's exports of non-oil goods in the first half of the Islamic year were up 19.76 per cent from the same period the previous year, the official news agency IRNA has said. It said 3.3 million tonnes of non-oil goods worth \$2.07 billion were exported between March 21 and Sept. 21, up 19.76 per cent in value and 11.6 per cent in volume. It did not give comparative figures.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I call it 'Tuna Surprise' because I bet the tuna was surprised when they caught him!"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAYRE
ERNIL
NATQUI
GINPTY

After I invented the...
WHAT THE DISHONEST INVENTOR OBVIOUSLY WAS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

Yesterday's Jumbles: QUEUE PIPER TURGID NOZZLE
Answer: How the coffee shop owner made his money — HE URNED IT

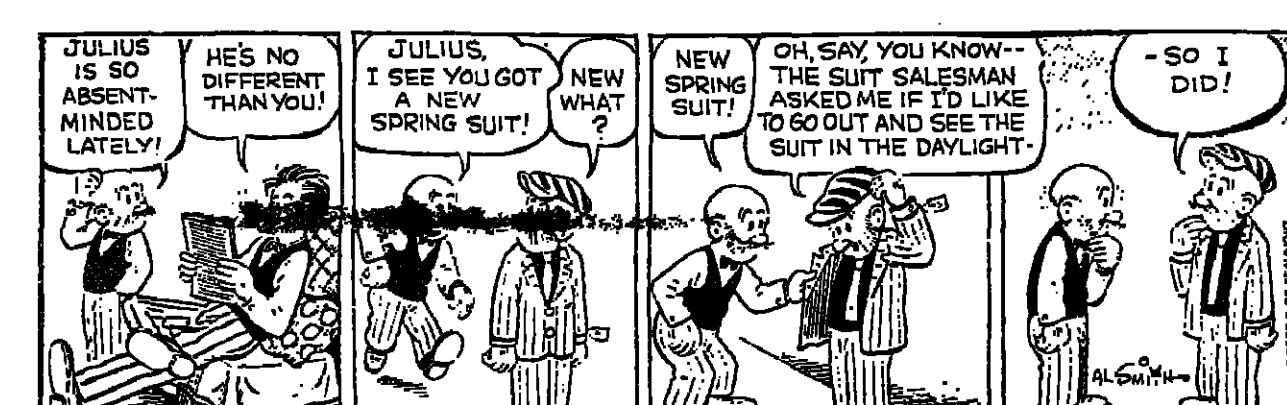
Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Pakistan plans to expand its oil-refining capacity

KARACHI (AFP) — Pakistan is setting up six more oil refineries to increase its refining capacity by 12.4 million tonnes annually, a senior official of the petroleum ministry has said.

Three new units are to be built at Karachi, Hyderabad and Badin, all in the southern region, to refine locally-produced and imported crude

oil, while work is already in progress on the construction of another three.

Pakistan produces 57,880 barrels of oil per day but consumes 250,000 barrels daily, and the gap is met through imports. The country exports nearly half of its locally-produced crude oil to China, India and other Asian countries.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You are still uncertain about some business matter this morning and it is going to take more time to work things out to your satisfaction. Don't settle for an interim agreement that pleases no one.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) There is a good chance that all of your affairs can be handled successfully at this time. Be happy with your family later this evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take the treatments which will improve your health and appearance so that you can get more activities completed successfully.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Closet yourself in the privacy of your study, and concentrate on where you are headed in practical affairs. Be happy with your loved ones.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Get advice from one who has your interests at heart, and follow ideas given for greater success and process.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Be sure to follow dictates of bigwigs to the letter for you to be successful. Avoid any possible family disagreements in the evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You can get started on that new course of action now that you can bring you greater success, so be enthused about the prospect of new endeavours.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Make sure you handle any responsibilities you have assumed during the day. Cue your mate in on what you are doing so that there are no questions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You can compromise with partners and come to a fine agreement now. The evening is a fine time to be with your family and friends.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) If you are more consistent, you can gain added profits and interests, so be practical and wise towards the methods of your actions.

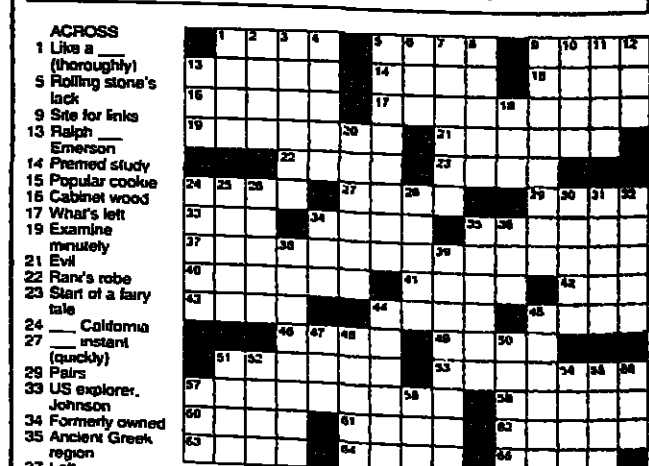
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Know how much amusements are going to cost before you get into them. Don't force friends to go along with you if they do not desire.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be more practical in handling home conditions. Do not do any entertaining in the evening as these could be with unwelcome visitors.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Get busy at handling obligations, and get good results. Run errands which will please your mate very much by showing that you are considerate.

Birthstone of December: Turquoise - Zircon

THE Daily Crossword by Betty Jorgensen



Puzzle solved:

Across: 1. Like a (thoroughly), 5. Rolling stone's lack, 9. Site for links, 13. Right, 14. Premier study, 15. Popular cookie, 16. Cabinet wood, 17. What's left, 19. Examine, 21. Evil, 22. Start of a fairy tale, 24. California instant (quidly), 25. Pairs, 27. US explorer, Johnson, 34. Formerly owned, 35. Ancient Greek region, 37. Left, 40. Headresses, 41. Aqua, 42. One's realm, 43. Ship, 44. Mr. James of the blues, 45. Indians, 46. Joke, 49. Appearance, 51. Charlotte, 53. Escapade, 57. Left, 58. Ardent, 60. Soil mineral, 61. Tide's partner, 62. Pseudonym, 63. Felt, 64. Run before a gale, 65. Lumbary, 66. Country, 67. Frightened, 68. Only syllable, 69. Army contents, 70. Passa, 74. Like paradise, 77. One, 78. Masculine, 79. Oppia solo, 80. Mob scenes, 81. Blind as, 82. Mascuine, 83. Oppia solo, 84. Mob scenes, 85. Mob scenes, 86. Mob scenes, 87. Mob scenes, 88. Mob scenes, 89. Mob scenes, 90. Mob scenes, 91. Mob scenes, 92. Mob scenes, 93. Mob scenes, 94. Mob scenes, 95. Mob scenes, 96. Mob scenes, 97. Mob scenes, 98. Mob scenes, 99. Mob scenes, 100. Mob scenes.

Business daily beat

A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

91 days for JD 31,338

★ For failing to repay a JD 31,338 debt to Petra Bank (under liquidation), Attiye Ali Mohammad Abdo was notified by the Wadi Seer Court that he was sentenced to 91 days in prison (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ A Royal decree approved the appointment of Walid Dweik as director-general of the Telecommunications Corporation (Al Ra'i).

★ The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is seriously considering building a new water-treatment station, similar to the one at Khirbet Al Samra, at the cost of JD 25 million. The location of the new station has not been decided on yet, but it will serve either Zarqa and Russeifa or the Amman regions. A ministry official said a tender to upgrade the performance of Khirbet Al Samra station for the approximate cost of JD 10 million would be announced soon (Al Ra'i).

★ After receiving the first payment from the Ministry of Finance, the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company began paying farmers the price differential on the tomatoes they sold to the company from the beginning of the year until August (Al Ra'i).

★ A French trade delegation will visit the Kingdom from Dec. 9 until Dec. 15. The team will hold talks with members of the Chamber of Commerce, heads of trade unions and other businessmen (Sawt Al Shaab).

★ Until Sunday morning about 59 million cubic metres of rain water flowed into the dams of the Jordan Valley (Al Ra'i).

★ "Petrol in Jordan - Fact and Ambitions" is the title of a scientific day that will be held Sunday at the Engineers' Association in Shmeisani (Al Ra'i).

★ Jordan's imports from France between 1985-1993 totalled JD 561.7 million. With exports to France during the same period worth JD 43 million, Jordan runs a trade deficit of JD 519 million in favour of France. In the field of tourism, France comes in fourth place among European countries in terms of the number of French who visit Jordan. The number stood at 60,283 tourists between 1985-1993 (Al Ra'i).

★ Craven A and Rothmans cigarettes, made by Jordan's International Tobacco and Cigarette Company, will be on the market early next year (Al Aswaq).

★ Official instructions have been given to various ministries and government departments to float as many tenders as possible before Jan. 15, 1995 in a bid to reactivate the construction sector which has been idle because of the lack of government tenders in the past few months. The financing of the projects to be tendered will be from the '95 budget (Al Aswaq).

★ Over 3,000 Israeli tourists visited the country last month. The number of tourists from Israel and Europe is expected to be high in the coming few months, enabling the tourism industry to enjoy a boom.

★ Official data shows that south Amman has become the favourite location for many industrialists and businessmen as 35 per cent of all real estate transactions during the second half of this year centred on that area. Real estate analysts explain that south Amman will be the new industrial zone for Jordan, with new industries heading there and established ones planning to open branches in that part of Amman. The Municipality of Greater Amman has pledged to build the necessary infrastructure for the area stretching from Sahab through Abu Alanda and Zarqa. Therefore demand is high and so are the prices for lands in Giza, Quneitra, Irbid, Breik, Izmeh, Khan Al Zabib and Al Qatrach. Prices which have been around JD 250 per dunum have now reached the JD 4,000 level (Al Aswaq).

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI				
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 05/12/1994				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES	TRADING VOLUME	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK	680	125,220	184.000	184.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	6,800	31,242	4.600	4.600
BANK OF JORDAN	200	786	3.930	3.930
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	1,600	2,438	1.640	1.620
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	1,250	3,726	2.990	2.980
THE HOUSING BANK	2,900	16,385	5.650	5.650
JORDAN KUNAWAT BANK	2,794	8,525	3.050	3.050
JORDAN GULF BANK	1,250	2,047	1.720	1.700
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	6,000	22,335	3.720	3.720
BUSINESS BANK	1,500	5,591	3.700	3.720
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1,109	5,530	4.900	5.000
BEIT KHALAF SAVING & INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	400	1,332	3.370	3.330
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	24,550	38,430	1.580	1.560
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	8,950	16,110	1.800	1.800
YAMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE	2,500	7,610	3.000	3.050
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	500	1,300	2.600	2.600
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	1,800	2,832	1.580	1.580
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER / NEW	9,620	8,998	1.530	1.530
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	100	4,560	6.800	5.750
JORDAN HINER MINERAL	100	141	1.340	1.410
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1,750	4,473	2.620	2.550
JORDAN GULF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	17,600	22,215	1.320	1.250
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	500	545	1.080	1.090
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	750	623	0.830	0.830
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / AL RA'I	550	6,603	12.250	11.950
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONSUMERS HOTELS	23,900	60,049	2.520	2.500
ARAB ENTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	750	2,190	3.390	3.390
ATTARQUEP CONST. MATERIAL MANUFACTURING	250	328	1.330	1.310
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	8,508	24,603	2.900	2.900
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	3,684	9,575	2.600	2.600
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	430	4,019	9.350	9.340
THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	1,250	6,253	5.050	5.010
THE JORDAN WORTED MILLS	1,850	15,263	8.300	8.250
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	9,710	60,197	6.250	6.170
THE JORDAN TILES MANUFACTURING	2,350	6,820	2.900	2.900
SPINNING & WEAVING	10,900	29,410	2.730	2.650
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	1,350	3,746	2.800	2.760
DAR AL DANA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	307	5,357	17.450	17.450
ARAB INVESTMENT & INTERNATIONAL TRADE	19,100	15,737	1.060	1.040
ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	750	5,400	7.200	7.200
LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	15,600	15,810	1.020	1.020
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	12,100	17,508	1.450	1.450
NATIONAL STEEL INDUSTRIES	1,500	6,538	4.300	4.350
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	650	560	6.800	1.00
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	1,450	1,365	2.100	2.100
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	1,450	4,158	2.890	2.880
WATER INVESTMENT	4,500	950	1.890	1.900
UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	4,500	19,473	4.320	4.250
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	5,850	16,033	2.740	2.760
GRAND TOTAL	233,731	696,023		

Financial Markets

Jordan Times
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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close Date: 2/12/94	Tokyo Close Date: 5/12/94
Sterling Pound	1.5610	1.5603**
Deutsche Mark	1.5800	1.5780
Swiss Franc	1.3337	1.3303**
French Franc	5.4205	5.4103**
Japanese Yen	100.61	100.54
European Currency Unit	1.2075	1.2100**

USD Per JTC
** European Opening at 8:00 a.m. GMT

European Interest Rates Date: 5/12/1994

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	6.06	6.50	6.87
Sterling Pound	5.62	6.00	6.50	6.87
Deutsche Mark	5.06	5.00	5.12	5.43
Swiss Franc	3.68	3.81	4.00	4.51
French Franc	5.25	5.43	5.62	6.06
Japanese Yen	2.78	2.78	2.31	2.50
European Currency Unit	5.87	6.00	6.19	6.68

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals Date: 5/12/1994

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	377.25	7.55	Silver	4.75	0.110

* 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 5/12/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.7030	0.7050
Sterling Pound	1.0953	1.1008
Deutsche Mark	0.4452	0.4474
Swiss Franc	0.5275	0.5301
French Franc	0.1298	0.1304
Japanese Yen	0.6988	0.7025
Dutch Guilder	0.3976	0.3996
Swedish Krona	*****	*****
Italian Lira	0.0434	0.0436
Belgian Franc	*****	*****

* Per 100

Other Currencies Date: 5/12/1994

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8490	1.8620
Lebanese Lira	0.041375	0.042725
Saudi Riyal	0.1862	0.1880
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.1919	0.1932
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.8070	1.8260
UAE Dirham	0.1906	0.1917
Greek Drachma	0.2750	0.3170
Cypriot Pound	1.3960	1.5040

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Study: World car sales rise 6% but Japanese market trails

LONDON (AFP) — Global car sales will rise by six per cent to record high volumes in 1994 as car demand recovers from a six-year low point in 1993 but the Japanese market is still struggling, a research group said here Monday.

The automotive research group DRI/McGraw-Hill forecast: "Latin American and much of the Asian Pacific region is booming, while neither Japan or Canada has yet shown any real recovery."

"Western Europe continues to pull itself out of recession," DRI said. Only in the United States was recovery at a mature stage.

"The relatively prolonged recovery phase in Europe and Japan, plus the take-off of developing countries particularly in Asia, should set the scene for a steady improvement towards record levels of global car demand throughout the mid-1990s," it pointed out.

Over the medium term (1993-1999), global car sales are forecast to expand by 30 per cent to a record 43 million vehicles, with much of the growth originating outside the traditional car consuming nations.

"South Korea, China, Thailand, Latin American and Eastern Europe offer the best growth prospects for the 1990s and beyond," DRI said.

In Japan, inflationary measures and some tax reductions would provoke a slow recovery but this would come too late in the year to generate an overall increase of any note in the market for 1994.

Although sales were expected to recover by five per cent in 1995, the 1990 peak of 5.1 million might not be recovered again this decade, the group said.

In stark contrast to the situation in Japan, the U.S. recovery was gaining ground and both the economy and market were set to reach a cyclical peak in 1994.

A combination of disappointing replacement demand, rising short-term interest rates and weakening

consumer confidence in a slowing economy would lead to a reduction of car volumes in 1995 and 1996.

Sales in western Europe were set to rise by five per cent in 1994, following the slump of 1993 in which sales fell by 15 per cent, the study said.

Recovery was now underway in much of Scandinavia, and in Britain recovery was in its second year.

Much of continental Europe remained depressed, with car sales falling in Germany and Italy. Concerns over the impact of recession had led the French and Spanish authorities to introduce tax incentives to scrap old cars. Markets in the two countries had responded strongly.

European manufacturers would be able to increase production by about seven

per cent in 1994.

Outside Europe, the production outlook was positive with the major regional blocs, North America, Latin America and Asia-Pacific (excluding Japan) all seeing output recover sharply this year, the report said.

The key exception was Japan where output was forecast to fall further by about seven per cent in 1994.

In Japan, overseas production was being substituted for some export output and additional capacity was being established in the United States and Asia, while a build-up in Europe continued.

These structural changes suggested that the 1990 production peak of 10 million cars might not be reached again until the next century, the group said.

Seminar to explain ISO 9000 Monday

AMMAN — For Jordan there is no short path to becoming a world-standard service and industry centre. The road to industrial and service stardom will have to pass through the International Standards Organisation, or what is called ISO 9000 — the official world institution approving quality and efficiency. Industries meeting these standards should be able to compete effectively in export markets.

On Dec. 12 the Jordan Trade Association (JTA) and Team International, management consultants, will be holding a one-day seminar at the InterContinental Hotel for the implementation of the ISO 9000. A manager at a well-known British company that grants ISO 9000 certificates will speak at the seminar to explain its application and vitality in bringing the performance of industry to world standards.

JTA and Team International have long embarked on programmes to promote ISO 9000 in Jordan through intensive training courses and seminars. A conference held by Team in Cairo on total quality management (TQM) in 1993 attracted over 600 Arab managers — 70 were Jordanian.

According to Halim Abu Rahmeh, executive manager at JTA, implementing ISO 9000 is a policy that is in support of Jordan's overall export-promotion strategies. The ISO policy will bring the performance of Jordanian companies to the levels expected under the TQM management systems.

Investcorp buys Prime Equipment

MANAMA (R) — Investcorp S.A., an international investment bank, has completed the acquisition of the U.S. firm Prime Equipment for \$300 million. A bank statement said the Houston-based Prime Equipment was the second-largest supplier of rental equipment to U.S. construction and industrial markets. Investcorp invests private Arab funds into U.S. and European companies. It pays for acquisitions partly with funds from private Arab investors and partly with its own money. It said on October it had arranged the acquisition of Ebel S.A., a leading Swiss luxury watch manufacturer. Among its other acquisitions are Saks Fifth Avenue and Tiffany in the United States.

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Cowboys, Steelers clinch playoff berths

NEW YORK (AP) — The Cowboys, seeking to become the first team with three straight national football league Super Bowl titles, beat the Philadelphia Eagles 31-19 Sunday to win the NFC East division title and clinch a playoff berth.

Emmitt Smith rushed for 91 yards and two touchdowns as the Cowboys (11-2) didn't miss injured quarterback Troy Aikman in handing the Eagles their fourth successive defeat.

"But Dallas couldn't gain on the red-hot San Francisco 49ers, who routed Atlanta 50-14 as Steve Young accounted for five touchdowns.

"For us to stay on pace with San Francisco, we have to win the next three," quarterback Rodney Peete said. "But this was a big win for us. It means a lot (clinching the division), but we still have three games to go. Our goal is to get back to the Super Bowl and win it, we're a step closer."

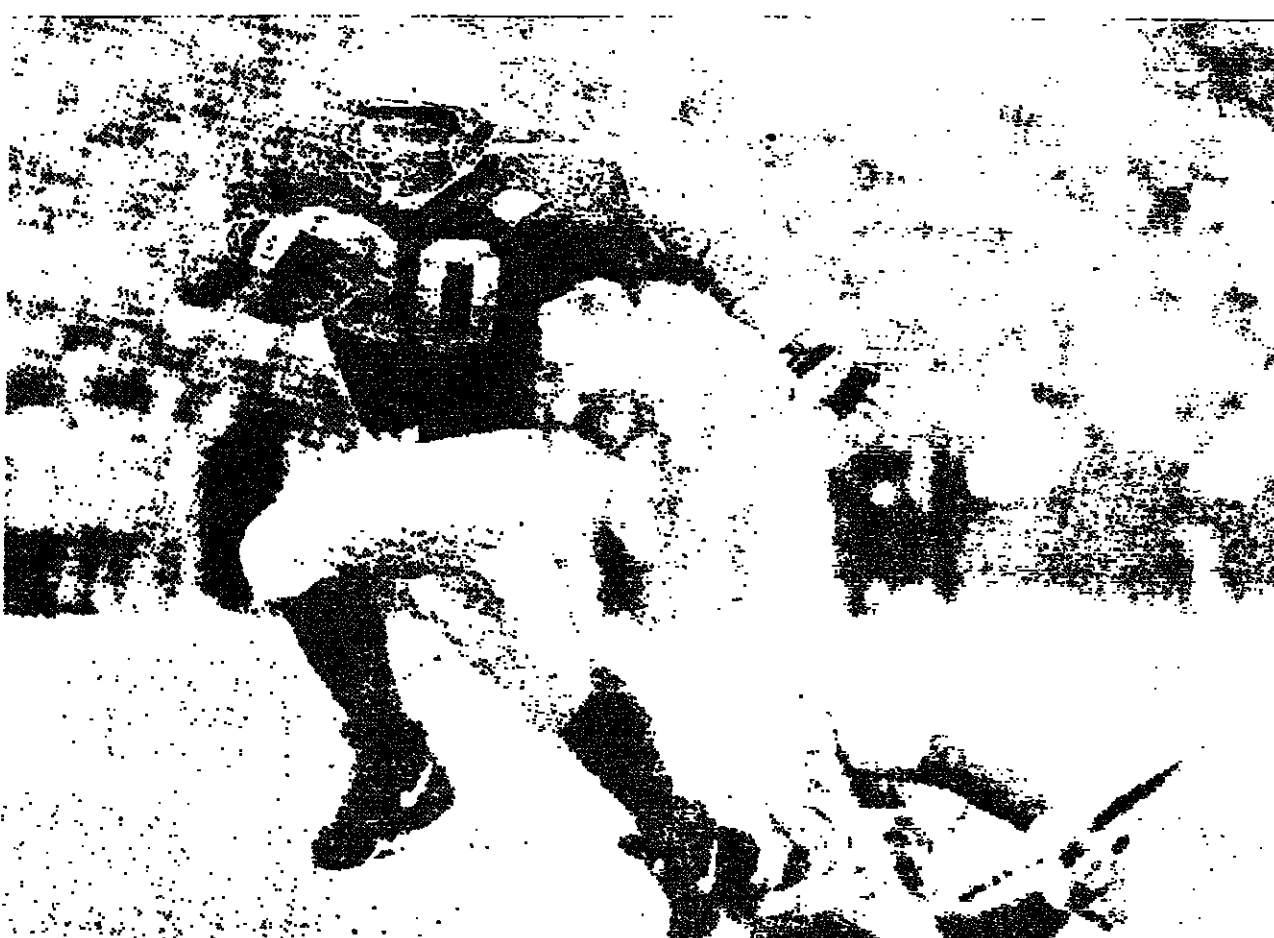
Pittsburgh (10-3) secured at least a wild-card berth in the AFC and took the Central Division lead by routing Cincinnati 38-15. Bam Morris rushed for 108 yards and a pair of touchdowns and Rod Woodson returned one of Pittsburgh's two interceptions for a touchdown.

"The Steelers have won five straight for the first time since 1983, and moved one game in front of Cleveland, which lost to the New York Giants 16-13.

"Right now, we're playing very well," all-pro cornerback Woodson said. "This team is so different. You can't even compare it to our teams the last few years that lost in the first round."

The week's action began with Minnesota's 33-27 overtime win over Chicago Thursday night.

Cowboys 31, Eagles 19: Peete did well in place of Aikman (sprained knee), completing 10 of 17 passes for 172 yards. Michael Irvin had 117 yards and a touchdown on four receptions in the Cowboys' 14th successive NFC East victory.



The Detroit Lion's Barry Sanders gets past the Buffalo Bills' Henry Jones for a touchdown in their match. The Lions won 35-21.

"It's nice to be able to show that we can win with three quarters," Smith said. "It's a great feeling knowing you can count on every quarterback you have on the roster."

Randall Cunningham finished 29 of 46 for 327 yards for the Eagles (7-6).

Steelers 38, Bengals 15: At Cincinnati, the Steelers' defense continued its dominance and the offense kept control against the Bengals (2-11), holding the ball for 40 minutes. The Steelers held Jeff Blake, the AFC's leading passer, to a season-low 156 yards on 8-for-19 passing and sacked him five times, padding their total to 50. Kevin Greene added to the NFL sacks lead with two, giving him 14.

"They opened up their offense and we opened up

our defense," linebacker Greg Lloyd said. "This guy, he was like everybody else out there. They don't know where we're coming from."

Giants 16, Browns 13: At Cleveland, the Giants (6-7) won their third straight following a seven-game slide that came after three straight victories as Brad Daluiso kicked a 33-yard field goal with 19 seconds to go. Daluiso, usually used only on kickoffs, made three field goals after David Treadwell was benched for missing a 37-yarder in the first half.

The Browns (8-4) could have clinched their first playoff berth since 1989, but committed turnovers on four of their first five second-half possessions.

49ers 50, Falcons 14: There were no fisticuffs between Deion Sanders and Andre

Rison, as happened when the teams met in Atlanta in October. But there were plenty of fireworks by San Francisco's offense and defense.

The 49ers (11-2) forced five turnovers, leading to 17 points, young threw for three touchdowns and ran for two

in guiding San Francisco to its eighth consecutive victory.

Young completed 22 of 33 passes for 294 yards, shaking off an interception return for a touchdown by defensive end Chuck Smith that ended a string of 123 passes without being picked off.

NFL results

Dallas	31	Philadelphia	19
Pittsburgh	38	Cincinnati	15
New England	24	NY Jets	13
Tampa Bay	26	Washington	21
San Francisco	50	Atlanta	14
New Orleans	31	LA Rams	15
Detroit	34	Green Bay	31
NY Giants	16	Cleveland	13
Arizona	30	Houston	12
Indianapolis	31	Seattle	19
Denver	20	Kansas City	17 (OT)
Buffalo	42	Miami	31

Trail Blazers beat Bucks

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Clyde Drexler made a 25-foot (7-metres) turnaround jumper with 0.9 seconds left and finished with 36 points Sunday night as the Portland Trail Blazers beat Milwaukee 106-103, handing the Bucks their seventh straight loss.

Drexler, who had 28 points in the second half, also had 11 rebounds and nine assists. Harvey Grant came off the bench to score 24 points.

Glenn Robinson led Milwaukee with 25 points and Eric Murdock had 20, including 16 in a fourth-quarter rally that allowed Milwaukee to tie the game at 103 in the final seconds.

After a timeout, James Robinson inbounded to Drexler on the left side. The all-star guard spun and banked the shot in as the buzzer sounded.

Portland led 100-92 with 1:39 left, but Murdock's two free throws with 14 seconds left closed the gap to 102-100. Grant then made one of two free throws with 8.5 seconds left before Baker's desperation 24-footer (7-metre) tied the score with 0.9 seconds left.

Trailers 63-50 five minutes into the third period, the Blazers had a 20-6 run to close out the quarter. Drexler had 14 points in the run and Grant's two free throws with 24-seconds left gave Portland its first lead of the game.

Swedish tennis future unclear

MOSCOW (R) — Despite Sweden's hard-fought Davis Cup win against Russia over the weekend, it is by no means clear the triumph can inspire the country's tennis establishment to pull itself out of a deep rut.

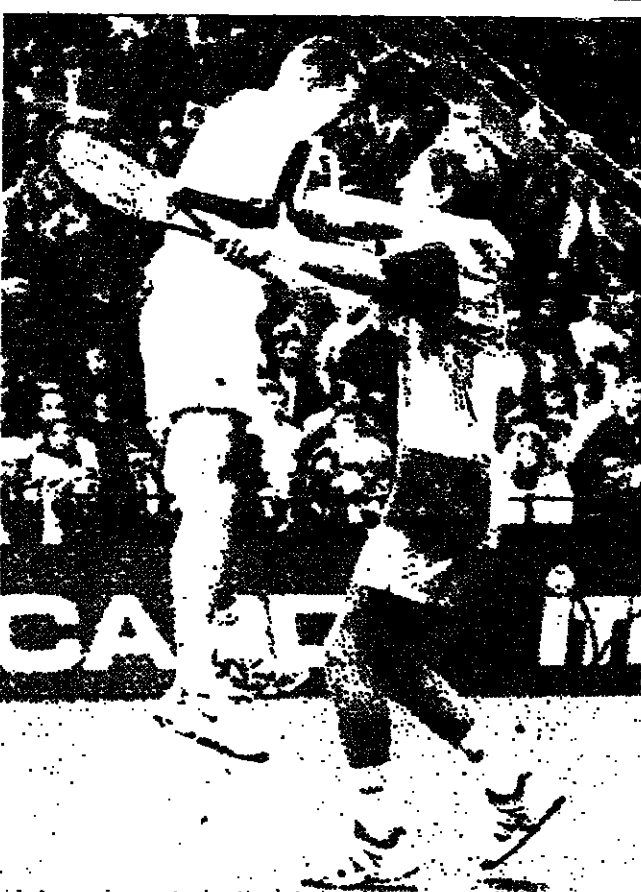
Sweden won the cup for the first time in seven years by the seemingly comfortable score of 4-1, but were made to battle every millimetre of the way by an unseeded Russian side.

The triumph was clinched on Saturday when Jan Apell and Jonas Bjorkman earned Sweden an unassailable 3-0 lead by winning the doubles from Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olkhovsky in five sets, the third successive match to go the full distance.

"We have been lucky to win this match but the fighting spirit was unbelievable," said on-serving Swedish captain Jan-Anders Sjogren, the inspiration behind the team. But Sjogren is now retiring from the captaincy and his departure will leave a gaping hole to fill.

Sweden reached the final seven years in a row from 1983 to 1989, winning three times, but since then have not had a particularly distinguished record.

Part of the problem is that the Swedish training system, which produced a string of top stars over the last 20



Jonas Bjorkman and Jan Apell jubilate after winning the Davis Cup for Sweden (AFP photo)

years, no longer seems capable of finding potential world champions as other sports, notably golf, attract the youngsters' interest.

"Of course this victory is very important for Swedish tennis because the Davis Cup is number one and I hope many young kids will start to play tennis again and we get good new players," said Sjogren.

He made the point in a telling way when, asked who the best ever Swedish players

had been, he cited Stefan Edberg, Bjorn Borg and Mats Wilander. The latter pair have already been out of top class tennis for several years.

Edberg, a long-serving Davis Cup team member, struck an upbeat tone Sunday, saying the side could successfully defend its title.

"I will be playing next year. We do have a good team, there is no doubt about that. It's very possible we can win it," he told journalists.

Germany win sprint swimming tourney

STAVANGER, Norway (R)

Germany's Sandra Voelker and Sweden's Louise Karlsson won their top events for the fourth time in succession Sunday to maintain twin 100 per cent records at the European Sprint Swimming Championships.

Voelker, who had retained her 50 metres freestyle crown on Saturday, remained invincible in the 50 metres backstroke which she has monopolised since the inaugural European Sprint Championships in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, in 1991.

Karlsson claimed the women's 100 metres individual medley title for the fourth time with equal panache and earned an award for the top performance by a woman swimmer in the two-day meeting.

Mark Warnecke, denying Russia's Vasily Ivanov a fourth successive 50 metres breaststroke title, was rated the top men's performer and helped Germany finish once again top of the medals table with seven of the 14 titles.

Warnecke also assisted Germany to a world-best time in the men's 4x50 metres relay, the second world-best of the sparsely attended championships following Sweden's improvement on the men's 4x50 metres freestyle mark on Saturday.

coaching a soccer team. Only one thing looks assured in Tomba's future and that is being a world champion at last in Sierra Nevada next February: "It remains my main goal this season," he said.

To win the only major title missing in his career might turn out to be the climax and the end of it. But failure again at the world championships in Spain is not certain to convince him to give it another try.

"Could you retire without a gold medal at the world championships?", he was asked in Tignes. The answer was yes.

Zamalek curse poor finishing

JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— Egyptian club Zamalek appear doomed to become the latest victims of a jinx which has cursed African champions for almost three decades.

The holders, let down by poor finishing, could only draw 0-0 at home to Esperance of Tunisia in the first leg of the Champions' Cup final at the weekend, leaving them with a uphill task in Tunis December 17.

Esperance, bidding to become only the second Tunisian winners of a trophy donated by the late ruler of Guinea, Sekou, Toure, have won their previous four home matches with a 14-1 goal tally.

Since the competition was launched in 1964, only TP Englebert of Zaire have successfully defended the title, winning in 1967 and 1968 when fewer countries entered.

Zamalek did get the ball into the Esperance net during the second half in Cairo, but the Congolese referee ruled Ghanaian forward Ahmad Oscar offside.

Weak finishing has hampered the Egyptian side in their challenge for a record fourth title — they have struck only eight goals in seven matches while Esperance have hit 21 in nine outings.

Favourites Bendel Insurance became the second Nigerian winners of the CAF Cup after defeating Angolan visitors Primeiro Maio 3-0 in Benin City.

Bendel, trailing 1-0 following the first leg in Luanda two weeks ago, took just three minutes to draw level on aggregate through leading scorer Mfon Bassey.

Monday Osagie made it 2-0 in the 36th minute with his first Cup goal and Bassey completed a miserable afternoon for the Angolans by grabbing the third five minutes into the second period.

Bassey finished with six goals, including a first-round hat-trick, which earned him second place in the scorer's standings behind eight-goal Tsimba Razafintandina of Reunion side Saint-Denis.

Bendel automatically qualify for the 1995 edition as holders and will be joined by Shooting Stars, who were runners-up to BCC Lions in the Nigerian championship.

South Africa, Ivory Coast share triumph

South Africa and the Ivory Coast shared the \$70,000 first prize in a four-nation tournament after drawing their final matches at Ellis Park Sunday.

Ghana, despite playing most of the second half with 10 men, drew 1-1 with the Ivorians and a jaded South African team were lucky to hold Cameroon in another 1-1 stalemate.

AFRICAN SOCCER

Eben Hagan gave the Black Stars a sixth-minute lead over the Ivory Coast in a repeat of the 1994 African Nations' Cup quarter-final last April, which the Ivorians won.

The goal brought a small crowd in the 70,000-capacity rugby stadium to its feet as the Ghanaian pounced on a loose ball outside the penalty area and gave goalkeeper Lossen Konate no chance.

Konate, who impressed throughout the nine-day event, then dived bravely at the feet of Emmanuel Tetteh to prevent the rampant Black Stars increasing their lead.

But just when the Ivorians appeared in danger of being overwhelmed, Ibrahim Kone snatched a superb 37th-minute equaliser, hammering a long-range shot past Anthony Mensah.

Defender Stephen Baidoo was shown a red card by the South African referee after

54 minutes for a second bookable offence in a match that sometimes threatened to boil over.

The orange-shirted Ivorians won much more possession in the second half while Ghana relied on counter-attacks, which usually broke down through lack of teamwork.

Michel Bassole nearly snatched victory for the Ivory Coast in the final minute with a crisp drive from the edge of the penalty area, but Mensah reacted swiftly to make a good save.

South Africa, whose nine local players showed signs of weariness following a 11-month season, never stamped their authority over Cameroon, who lost to Ivory Coast and Ghana last week.

The Indomitable Lions included veteran forward Roger Milla, who at 42 became

the oldest player to score in the World Cup finals this year.

And the Peter Pan of African football looked fresher than many younger opponents after playing the 90 minutes and impressing with his ball control and distribution.

South Africa were caught napping on the stroke of half-time when a Roger Futumba free kick found three players unmarked and Kessack Mabonga headed past Wade Du Plessis.

Another free kick, from almost the same position, led to the equaliser three minutes after the break as Boukar Alioune failed to hold a header and Edward Motale slammed the rebound home.

Midfielder Doctor Khumalo, the most popular South African footballer, later got his marching orders from the Ghanaian match officials for a second bookable offence.

Jordan remains best-paid athlete

NEW YORK (AP) — Michael Jordan, despite his retirement from basketball, heads the list of the highest-earning athletes for the third straight year.

Jordan earned \$30.01 million this year, down from \$36 million in 1993. U.S. financial magazine Forbes said in its Dec. 19 issue, which was released Sunday. Only about \$10,000 of his income came from playing. He made about \$1,200 per month playing for the Birmingham Barons in the U.S. Minor Leagues, two levels down from U.S. Major League Baseball, about \$30 million came from endorsements, the magazine estimated.

Shaquille O'Neal of the Orlando Magic of the U.S. National Basketball Association was second at \$16.7 million, including \$4.2 million in basketball income. Jack Nicklaus was third at \$14.8 million and Arnold Palmer fourth at \$13.6 million. Each earned only about \$100,000 from golf, the rest from endorsements and appearance fees.

Last year, Jordan was followed by boxer Riddick Bowe at \$25 million and auto racing driver Ayrton Senna at \$18.5 million. Bowe, the former heavyweight champion, dropped off the list. Senna was killed in a crash at the San Marino Grand Prix in May.

Gerhard Berger was the top auto driver this year at \$13.5 million, in fifth place overall. Wayne Gretzky was next, remaining the top ice hockey player at \$13.5 million, up from \$8.3 million and 22nd place a year ago.

Michael Moorer, who lost the heavyweight title to



Michael Jordan

George Foreman last month, was the top boxer at \$12.1 million, in seventh place overall. Evander Holyfield was next at \$12 million. Foreman was 15th at \$8.5 million.

Andre Agassi, who was No. 1 among tennis players in 1992, regained the top spot from Jim Courier. Agassi was at \$11.4 million in ninth place.

Joe Montana remained the top American football player, 12th overall at \$10.3 million, a drop of \$1.2 million from 1993.

Steffi Graf remained the top female athlete at \$8 million, in 19th place overall, last year she was 15th at \$8 million.

Gabriela Sabatini was the only other woman on the list, in 39th place with \$4.9 million.

Will Clark, in 37th place at \$5.2 million, was the only baseball player on the list. Many baseball players with multiyear contracts

anticipated a strike or lock-out and took lower salaries in 1994. Last year, Cecil Fielder was the top baseball player at \$12.7 million.

Deion Sanders, who plays American football and baseball, was 30th this year at \$4.9 million.

Roberto Baggio, the star of Italy's national team and Juventus of Turin, was the only soccer player on the list. He was in 35th place with \$5.5 million.

The total of the athletes on the list dropped from \$416 million to \$354 million, partly because the number of baseball players declined from eight to one.

Eight auto racing drivers were on the list, seven tennis players and seven boxers.

The list includes money from salaries, winnings, endorsements, appearance fees and licensing. The magazine does not say how it treats deferred money.

Tomba hints at retirement despite fine start

TIGNES (R) — Alberto Tomba has made a perfect start to a season he claims may be his last.

The larger-than-life Italian routinely won the opening slalom of the men's Alpine Skiing World Cup season Sunday, but hinted there may not be another one. "Everybody is telling me to go on but I'm the one who does the skiing," he said.

"If Vecchio (the old man) is back," he also joked after humbling all his rivals in the French resort of Tignes.

Tomba is 27 years old and seems to have many years, races and jokes to offer before retiring. But he said he was a little weary after spend-

ing seven years at the top since his first world cup victory on home snow in his favourite resort of Sestriere in 1987.

Since then, he has captured 34 world cup victories — 23 slaloms and 11 giant slaloms, although he claims to have won 35 taking into account a parallel slalom — three Olympic golds and many hearts at home and abroad.

But even the "Tomba Club," his fan club who crossed the border from Italy to cheer him in Tignes, may not be noisy enough to convince him to stay.

Because of his poor recent form in giant slaloms, Tomba knows he won't be able to

equal Ingemar Stenmark's record of 86 world cup wins. And he confessed he does not even eye the Swede's record of 40 slalom wins.

"It was much easier in his time, I hope that everybody realises that. I've already been too generous with my rivals," he said.

"But to be 86 times on the podium would not be so bad," said Tomba, who has been in the top three in world cup races 64 times so far.

Even to do it 22 times more would mean staying on for another season at least.

Tomba does not even dream of ever winning the world cup he is currently leading. Three times second

in 1988, 1991, and 1992, he has renounced it ever since his mother convinced him Super G's and downhill were far too dangerous for his talent.

Tomba's decision may also depend on the staff surrounding him. His ski coach, former champion Gustavo Thoeni, has a contract running until the end of next year. He said he would like Tomba to go on until 1997 but added he would also like to spend more time with his family.

Giorgio D'urbano, the man who turned Tomba into "La Bomba," said he would like to take a new direction in his career, perhaps by

coaching a soccer team.

Only one thing looks assured in Tomba's future and that is being a world champion at last in Sierra Nevada next February: "It remains my main goal this season," he said.

To win the only major title missing in his career might turn out to be the climax and the end of it. But failure again at the world championships in Spain is not certain to convince him to give it another try.

"Could you retire without a gold medal at the world championships?", he was asked in Tignes. The answer was yes.

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North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q 10 9
♥ A Q 8 5
♦ 8 7
♣ A 9

WEST
♠ K 8 7 2
♥ K 10 4
♦ J 3
♣ 10 8 3 2

EAST
♠ 8 5 3
♥ 9 2
♦ Q 10 9 3
♣ 7 6 5

SOUTH
♠ 4
♥ J 7 6 5
♦ A K 6 4
♣ K J 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♠ Pass 1♠ Pass
1NT Pass 2♠ Pass
2♣ Pass 3♣ Pass
4♦ Pass 5♠ Pass
5♦ Pass 6♥ Pass

Pass Pass
Opening lead: Eight of ♠.

"There's no such thing as a free" bid or "free" finesse, South learned the hard way that they can cost dearly.

North's two clubs was game forcing and asked South to describe the holding further. When North persisted by cue-bidding five clubs, despite South's sign-offs, South cooperated by cue-bidding diamonds and a somewhat optimistic alarm resulted.

West led a club and declarer seized the opportunity for the free finesse, capturing the queen with the king. A heart to the queen won in case the king dropped, declarer tried to establish diamonds by cashing the ace-king and ruffing a diamond. When that failed, declarer resorted to a ruffing finesse in

spades as the best hope. Down one. Although the slam could have been made in several ways, including the one chosen, a misplay by declarer at the very first trick, falling to the lure of the free finesse, made life difficult. West's finesse, lead was surely top-of-nothing, as the finesse was a favorite to succeed. Look what happens if declarer refuses the finesse by ruffing with the ace.

After coming to hand with the king of diamonds, declarer finessees the ace. When the king does not drop, and ruffs a diamond, Now a club another diamond in hand to ruff the finesse puts declarer in a tight spot. Since declarer can get to hand with a spade ruff, the defender can get no more than the king of trumps.

Graf to defend Australian Open title

MELBOURNE (AFP) — Steffi Graf will defend her Australian Open tennis crown here next month despite being plagued by a back problem, tournament director Paul McNamee said Monday.

McNamee said he had contacted Graf's manager Phil Di Picio to seek assurances that she would be available.

"At this stage it's of no concern," McNamee said. "I spoke with her personal manager and he says that she is having treatment on her back and at this stage everything is okay."

McNamee feared Graf, a four-time winner of the tournament, may not play in the Open after learning she had a foot injury.

But after contacting Di Picio, he was told the 25-



Steffi Graf

year-old's major concern was a recurring back injury.

"She's got enough time off between now and the tourna-

ment to get plenty of treatment and I would be surprised if she didn't get on top of it," he said.

Overtime dispute upsets Eintracht's UEFA hopes

BONN (R) — A bizarre argument about a bit of footballing overtime has overshadowed Eintracht Frankfurt's UEFA Cup tie at Napoli, one of the most interesting of this week's third-round second leg clashes.

Eintracht have transfer-listed Ghanaian captain Anthony Yeboah, Nigerian Jay Jay Okacha and German international Maurizio Gaudino after they refused to play in a league match on Saturday following a row over an extra training session.

Eintracht, who won the UEFA Cup in 1980, managed a 2-0 victory over Hamburg in the German league at the weekend despite the absence of the three stars.

Whether the Germans can successfully defend a slim 1-0 first leg lead at the Italian 1989 UEFA Cup winners Wednesday is another matter. The scandal at the German club has added extra spice to the tie and is sure to give Eintracht extra motivation.

The UEFA Cup has been dominated by Germany, Spain and Italian clubs in the last 10 seasons — only twice has the trophy gone to a club from another country.

This season's competition is following the same pattern with four Italian, three German and three Spanish sides in the running for quarter-final places in the ties, most of which take place Tuesday.

Italy are almost certain to be well represented in the last eight, Juventus, who have won the trophy twice in the last five seasons, take a 3-1 lead into their home tie with Ajax, while Admira Wacker while Lazio take on Turkish side Fenerbahce at home with the cushion of a 2-1 lead from the first leg.

Barcelona, the 1993 Cup Winner's Cup champions, were beaten 4-0 away by Athletic Bilbao in the first leg and will need to work hard to break down the Spanish side's defence despite home advantage.

Bilbao are determined to counter the dangerous aerial attack of the Italians with defenders adept at the high ball game. Genar Andrius (1.82 metres), Aitor Karanka (1.81) and Oscar Vales (1.78) will have the job of blunting Parma's artillery.

Kasparov concedes draw

MOSCOW (AP) — World champion Garry Kasparov played his first game of the 31st Chess Olympiad Sunday, conceding a draw with Ljubomir Ljubojevic of Yugoslavia.

Kasparov, playing with the disadvantage of black, maintained a passive position and was forced to concede the draw.

The rest of the Russian team could not gain any advantage from the Yugoslavs and had to settle for a 2-2 draw.

Prior to the tournament, the organisers had denied entry to a second Russian side with Anatoly Kaprov on the first board. However, a Russian junior side was admitted and on Sunday it crushed Romania 3.5-0.5 to gain a share of the lead.

The Netherlands was held to a 2-2 draw by Iceland on Sunday.

Second-round leader, Lithuania rejoined the top three after a surprise victory over the strong Bosnian team.

The biggest disappointments of the Moscow Olympiad have been the highly ranked American and English teams.

Challengers keep up pressure in Euro soccer

PARIS (AFP) — Christmas may be just three weeks away — but the pacesetters in the major European leagues were handed few early presents at the weekend.

Unbeaten French leaders Nantes, despite 36 goals from 20 matches, couldn't find a way around a tight Auxerre defence and had to be satisfied with a 0-0 draw at home. And challenging Lyon shared a 1-1 draw at Monaco.

The results enabled Paris St. Germain to close the gap at the top to four points. They came away 2-1 winners from Lens.

In Spain, last-minute dramas left Real Madrid and Deportivo La Coruna sharing draws which meant that Zaragoza, 3-2 home winners over Sporting Gijon, joined them at the top of the table on 19 points from 13 outings.

The exception was in Italy, where leaders Parma thrashed lowly Brescia 4-0 — despite being under-strength.

Playing without Antonio Benarrivo, Sweden's Tomas Brodin and Colombian Faustino Asprilla, Parma brought

a no-nonsense approach to the match and were in charge throughout.

Massimo Crippa put them clear just before the break, before Gianfranco Zola hit his fifth and sixth goals of the season. Dino Baggio then rounded off the scoring with a goal five minutes from time.

Juventus kept one point behind when striker Gianluca Vialli sparked off a remarkable recovery in which the home side beat Fiorentina 3-2.

The 30-year-old striker, who scored twice against Reggina a fortnight ago, added another two goals to his season's tally Sunday by netting twice in a four-minute blitz midway through the second-half.

His efforts cancelled out two first-half goals for the visitors from Francesco Balzano and Angelo Carbone.

Alessandro Del Piero clinched Juventus' eighth win in eleven matches, just two minutes from time.

It meant the end of an



Tottenham Hotspur's star Teddy Sheringham scores the first of his three goals against Newcastle United. Spurs won 4-2 (AFP photo)

The Juventus win was marred by crowd violence before the match.

Police had to charge brawling fans and several youths were reportedly hurt in clashes outside the Delle Alpi stadium following the arrival of nearly 4,000 Fiorentina fans on coaches which were stoned by home supporters.

As Roma's Brazilian World Cup winning centre back Aldair scored midway through the second-half and Capioli finished off a 2-0 win over Padova.

In France, Paris St. Germain went ahead after just 12 minutes — Rai heading home a Vincent Guerin corner. But Lens, always a tough side to beat inside their Felix Bollaert Stadium, drew level with a Michael Debeve penalty five minutes into the second-half under Roger Boli was brought down by Francis Llacer.

Paris St. Germain clinched their win when young hope Bernard Alloo, who had only been on the pitch for twelve minutes after coming on for Jean-Philippe Secchet, slammed home a spectacular 25-yard effort.

Cannes moved up to third spot thanks to a 1-0 home win over Caen in a match which started 20 minutes late because of a bomb scare.

The stadium was searched after a phone call, claiming to come from a Corsican action group, said that a bomb had been planted inside the stadium.

There were similar anonymous bomb threats at Monaco, but the home side's clash against Lyon went ahead as scheduled.

Bastia, who have been suspended from playing one match at their Furiani Stadium because of the angry scenes and a pitch invasion during their bad-tempered home clash against Monaco

the previous weekend, did not play their scheduled home fixture against Metz.

Former European champions Marseille went back on top of the French second division Saturday when they beat visiting Saint Brieuc 2-0. It was their first match under new manager Gerard Gili.

Marseille joined Guingamp, who were surprisingly beaten 2-1 at home by Valencia, on 44 points from 22 matches.

There was no shortage of drama in Spain.

Real Madrid, who went clear with a 63rd minute penalty by Hierro, dropped a point at Real Sociedad when Kodro scored for the home side in the dying seconds.

And Deportivo salvaged a point at Barcelona when Salinas scored a last-gasp goal to equalise a 33rd minute effort by Koeman.

Real Madrid's disappointing weekend also ended with bad news concerning their midfielder Michel.

The 31-year-old player who was injured in the match against Real Sociedad will be out of action for the rest of the season due to a ligament injury to his left knee.

With Real and Deportivo unable to win, Zaragoza stormed back and scored three goals in a devastating twelve minute second-half spell after going behind against visiting Sporting Gijon. They eventually clinched a 3-2 win.

In London, Les Ferdinand

and Trevor Sinclair pushed West Ham nearer relegation danger with goals a 2-1 home win over their London rivals Sunday.

QPR, who notched up four home wins in a row against the Hammers, suffered a late goal from Dutchman Jeroen Boere, but still held on to the three points.

West Ham manager Harry Redknapp, whose squad is severely depleted through injury, suffered his sixth loss in seven games.

In Amsterdam, Dutch champions Ajax squandered a chance to top the league Sunday when they threw away a two-goal lead to draw 2-2 against Volendam.

PSV Eindhoven came back from 2-0 down to draw against Twente in the other big match of the day, with Feyenoord Rotterdam suffering a surprising home defeat against Vitesse Arnhem.

In a spectacular start to the match, Ajax were 2-0 up after just three minutes, with goals from Nigerian striker Nwankwo Kanu and midfielder Clarence Seedorf.

But by the fifth minute Volendam striker Jorg Smets had reduced the deficit, setting the scene for an equaliser in the 34th minute when Andre Ooyer headed in a free kick from Serb striker Ivan Vukov.

Ajax remain second with two games in hand, one point behind Roda JC Kerkrade, who drew 1-1 against MVV Maastricht.

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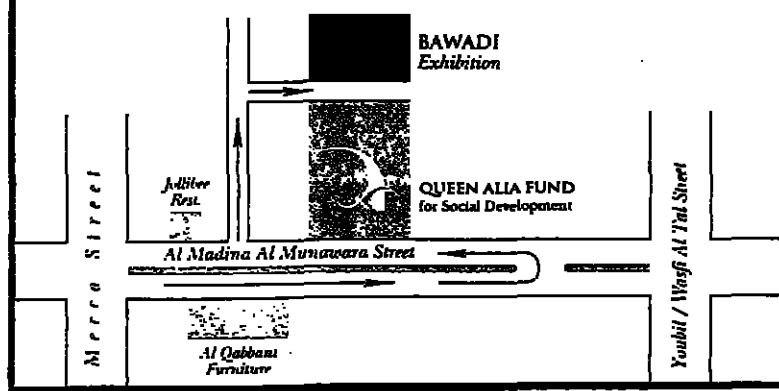
unrivalled scoring sequence for Fiorentina's Argentinian striker Gabriel Batistuta. Up until last Sunday he had scored in every game of the season, beating a ten-match record established by Bologna's Ezio Pascutti in 1964.

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Lebanon's Hariri withdraws resignation

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri withdrew his resignation Monday after crisis talks with Syrian leaders, a government minister said.

Mr. Hariri's resignation, which he announced at a cabinet meeting on Thursday but had not yet formally submitted to President Elias Hrawi, had threatened Lebanon's political and economic stability.

Syria, the main foreign power broker in Lebanon, had exerted heavy pressure on him to stay in place.

The announcement of his change of heart came after talks between Hariri, Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Hariri's rival, parliament speaker Nabih Berri, and Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Hariri was satisfied with Syrian efforts to resolve the Lebanese government crisis, said the minister, who refused to be named.

In Damascus, Mr. Assad's spokesman said the Syrian leader had "expressed his satisfaction over the positive results" of the talks.

Mr. Hariri's decision to stand down was prompted by mounting opposition to his policies and recent accusations of corruption within his Solidere company, which won most of the contract to rebuild war-ravaged downtown Beirut.

It was not yet clear what concessions Mr. Hariri had managed to obtain to stay on, particularly if he had obtained the green light to fire ministers opposed to his policies.

Mr. Hariri was to brief Mr. Hrawi, who had already vowed to reject any formal letter of resignation, on the outcome of the Damascus talks.

On Monday the Lebanese

central bank sold another \$150 million to prop up the pound in the face of the uncertainty caused by the crisis, bank officials said.

It was the second intervention by the bank which sold \$130 million on Friday. Shares in Solidere also continued to slide.

Mr. Hariri, a multi-billionaire businessman, has served as prime minister since Oct. 31, 1992 when many saw him as the potential saviour of the country which had suffered 15 years of civil war.

Syria was keen to maintain stability in Lebanon at a delicate stage in the Middle East process, with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher due to start a new regional mission on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Faris Bouez on Monday urged the feuding politicians to end a power struggle that has paralysed the government, saying they were "undermining the nation's foundations."

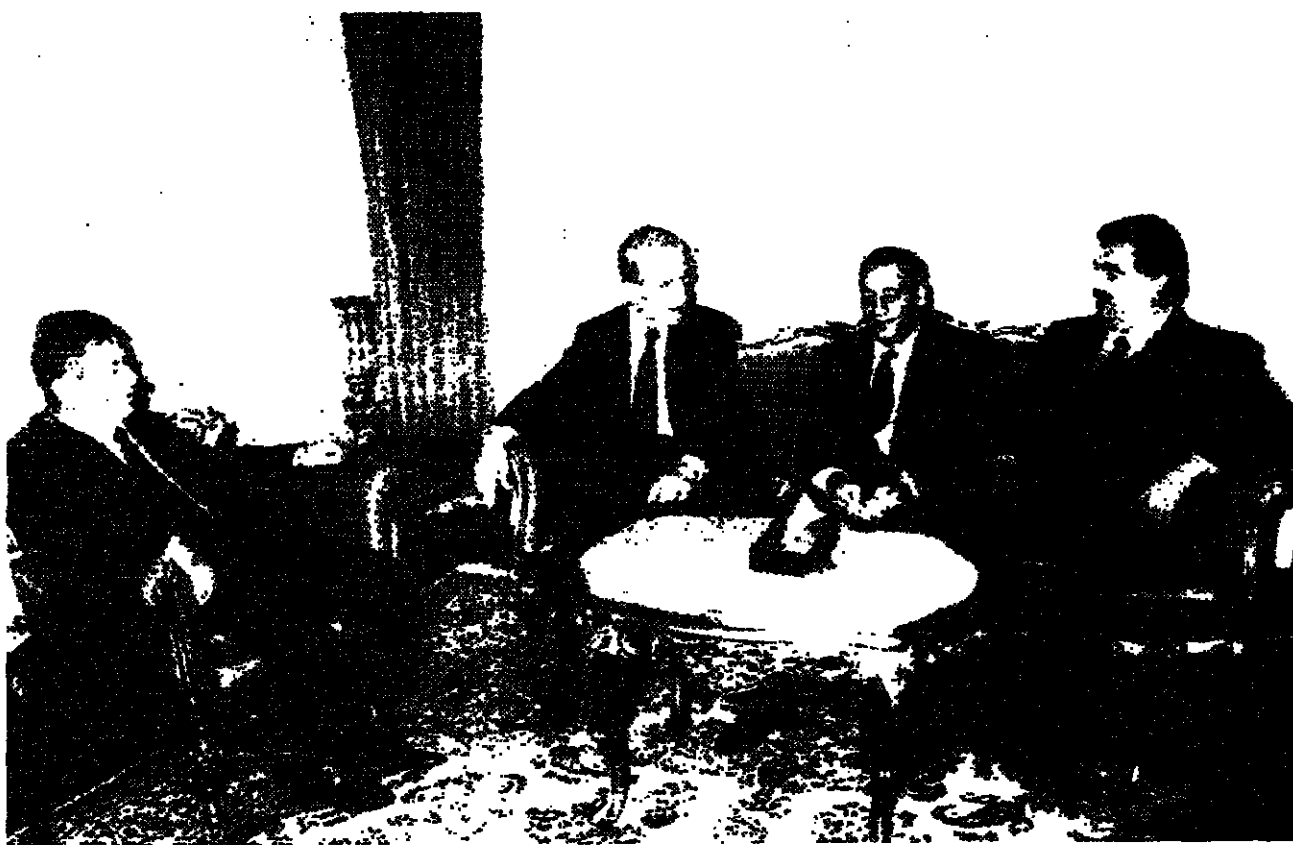
"It's so painful to witness these exchanges after a long war," Mr. Bouez told reporters at the foreign ministry.

"This indiscriminate shelling of a new kind... is undermining the nation's foundations more than the war did," said Mr. Bouez, who has steered clear of the infighting.

He said the feuding was tarnishing Lebanon's credibility and ability to recover from the war.

He said the next few months will be crucial for the "role, survival and sovereignty of the nation," stressing that internal confrontations only aid Lebanon's enemies.

He was apparently referring to Israel and the Middle East peace negotiations which have been stalemated since February.



HARIRI, BERRI IN SYRIA: Syrian President Hafez Al Assad (2nd left) receives Monday Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri (right), Lebanese Parliamentary Speaker Nabih

Berri (2nd right) and Syrian Vice President Abdel Halim Khaddam. The Syrian officials tried to persuade Hariri to reconsider his decision to step down (AFP photo)

France frees Libyan 'agent' over blast

PARIS (Agencies) — French authorities on Monday freed a Libyan national held in a probe into the 1989 mid-air bombing of a French DC-10 airliner in which 171 people died, judicial sources said.

Alli Omar Mansour, described by the interior ministry as an intelligence agent, had been detained in Paris since Thursday.

The sources said he was freed on the orders of anti-terrorist investigating Magistrate Jean-Louis Bruguiere after being questioned by police.

The French interior ministry said on Sunday that Mr. Mansour was an officer in the Libyan intelligence service. The Libyan news agency JANA, monitored in Cairo, said he was "an innocent citizen" on a visit to France for medical treatment.

France had detained Mr. Mansour "under mysterious circumstances" on the basis of information it received from Libyan dissidents who it

said worked as spies for foreign governments, JANA added.

The agency accused France of violating human rights by refusing to allow Mr. Mansour consular visits from Libyan diplomats.

Mr. Bruguiere issued arrest warrants three years ago against four Libyans, including the brother-in-law of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi, in connection with the bombing of UTA flight 772, which exploded over Niger and crashed in the Sahara desert.

Mr. Mansour is not among the four.

Libya's failure to help the French investigation, together with its refusal to hand over suspects in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am flight 103 over the Scottish village of Lockerbie in which 270 people died, has led the United Nations to impose sanctions on Tripoli.

The United States and Britain have indicted and issued

arrest warrants against two Libyans, Abdul Baset Ali Mohammad Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Fhimah, in connection with the Lockerbie bombing.

Libya has denied any part in the bombing and refuses to hand over the wanted men. It has accepted a suggestion that they be tried by Scottish judges under Scottish law at the international court of justice in the Hague, Netherlands.

But Washington and London insist that they be brought to court in the United States or Britain.

The sanctions, imposed in 1992 and aggravated in 1993, include an air and arms embargo, a freeze on some Libyan assets abroad, a ban on import of certain equipment for oil terminals and refineries and the downgrading of diplomatic relations.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has said Tripoli cannot expect sanctions to be softened unless it abides by

the Security Council demands.

No immediate details were available on the circumstances of Mr. Mansour's arrest.

Judge Bruguiere, who is heavily guarded, is in charge of the major cases of terrorism, including the probe into attacks blamed on international guerrilla "Carlos the Jackal".

Carlos, a Venezuelan whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, was seized in Sudan last August and is being held at Paris' La Sante prison.

The warrants that Mr. Bruguiere has issued included one for Abdullah Senoussi, a brother-in-law of Colonel Qadhafi and considered to be second-in-command of the secret service.

The other three were Abdullah Elazragh, a diplomat based in Brazzaville at the time, and intelligence operatives Ibrahim Naeli and Musbah Arbas.

Egypt group wants retrial for militants

CAIRO (Agencies) — Egypt's main human rights organisation has demanded a civilian retrial for 16 Muslim militants sentenced on Saturday in connection with an attack on tourists.

The independent Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights said the military court which tried them appeared to have rushed the case. It noted there was no appeal against the verdicts.

The court sentenced two of the militants to death and 14 of them to prison terms ranging from five to 15 years. Two German tourists and two Egyptians were killed in the attack in the Red Sea town of Hurgada on Sept. 27.

"There were repeated complaints of insufficient time for the defence to review case files — more than 1,000 pages in length," the organisation said in a statement.

The lawyer for one of the men sentenced to death had cited a medical report indicating 17 injuries due to torture and the defence had just one hour to speak for a defendant later sentenced to 10 years hard labour, it added.

"The organisation is deeply concerned at the disregard by the state of repeated

appeals for the phenomenon of referring civilians to military courts... to be stopped," it said.

"It voices its considerable worry over the increased rate of death sentences being brought against suspects who stand before these courts, in contradiction to established international standards on the necessity to limit the application of the death sentence," it added.

The military courts, introduced for militants to bypass the slow-moving civilian courts, have sentenced 60 militants to death since the end of 1992. Forty-two have been executed, 16 are on the run and two are on death row.

The human rights organisation asked for appeals to President Hosni Mubarak to stay the execution of the Hurgada two and to have the case retried in a civilian court.

"In the confrontation with violence and terrorism... the authorities should stay within the confines of the constitution, the law and human rights principles," it added.

Police on Sunday arrested Mohammad Mahmoud Farghali Mohammad, who Saturday was sentenced in absentia to 10 years imprisonment

for his role in the Hurgada killings.

Two men were sentenced to death and 14, including Mr. Mohammad, were given prison terms ranging from five to 15 years.

Under Egyptian law, Mr. Mohammad will be retried.

Police meanwhile shot dead a suspected Muslim militant and arrested eight others in a raid on a hideout in a southern Egyptian village, security sources said.

Security officials said police opened fire late on Sunday at a house in Bani Shaker near Manfalut town in the southern province of Assiut in response to shooting from inside, the sources said.

Soliman Zaki Soliman Reshwan, 30, was killed and police arrested eight other men with him in the house. Police believe all the men were militants, the sources said.

Security officials said villagers on Monday captured and handed to police a ninth suspected militant who escaped Sunday night's raid. The sources named him as Nadi Abdul Hakam Mahmoud and said he was wanted for wounding a police guard in an attack in southern Egypt last week.

In a separate incident, gunmen thought to be Muslim militants shot dead a policeman during a night curfew near the south Egyptian town of Mallawi on Sunday night, the sources said.

The policeman was the seventh person killed in the south in three days in the conflict between the police and the militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which wants to overthrow the government.

The Mallawi area, in the Nile Valley 260 kilometres south of Cairo, has been the main centre of Gamaa activity since about August this year.

More than 500 people, mainly militants and policemen, have been killed in political violence in Egypt since 1992.

A militant sentenced to death for involvement in armed attacks presented a plea for clemency from President Mubarak, the official news agency MENA reported Sunday.

The plea from Hamada Lotfi Abdel Baki would be assessed soon and if it was rejected the sentence would be "final," MENA said.

Abdel Baki was arrested with two other members of the outlawed Al Gamaa in November.

Jordan asks donors to cover budget deficit

By Khatib Salman
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A meeting between representatives of the Jordanian government and of the donor countries was held Monday at the Forte Grand Hotel in Amman with the aim of securing funds to help cover the JD1.674 billion deficit in the budget for 1995.

The meeting focused on the economic and social implications of the peace process, the performance of the Jordanian economy, status of the fiscal and monetary conditions in Jordan, the burden of external debt and the need for its reduction, and the investment climate.

The representatives were presented with a summary of the last consultative group meeting which was held in Paris in May 1994 and the results of the Middle East and North Africa economic conference held in Casablanca last month.

Planning Minister Hisham Khatib emphasised in his opening statement the need for full cooperation and team work with the donor countries to face the fundamental changes in the development priorities and economic management approaches that the peace process requires.

The minister assured the representatives of the donor countries of the commitment of Jordan to expedite disbursement of assistance pledged and committed by the donor countries through strengthening the structure of administering and following up of assistance at the Ministry of Planning.

He announced launching the aid coordination unit at the ministry and stressed the need for the next meeting of the consultative group (CG) to put together the assistance plans for all major donors to assure the needed level of foreign aid.

The central theme of the proposed CG meeting, as explained by Dr. Khatib, is to devise a mechanism for debt reduction on the long term.

The minister briefed the representatives on the main economic and social indicators of the Jordanian economy over the last 30 years.

Finance Minister Sami Gammoh briefed the representatives on the major economic indicators of the economic adjustment programme and the 1995 target levels of economic growth, inflation and budget deficit.

He mentioned the new laws and bylaws for the creation of a suitable climate for foreign investment in Jordan which were finalised by the ministry and will be presented for the Cabinet and Parliament to be ratified.

He added that the fruits of peace will come by hard work and assistance from the international community noting that the government is on the right track in its adjustment programme to tackle three basic challenges: Debt, poverty and unemployment.

The representatives of the donor countries were briefed on the monetary status in Jordan with main emphasis on measures to develop the monetary affairs and maintain financial stability.

COLUMN

Row erupts over school report card privacy

WELLINGTON (AFP) — New Zealand MPs are calling for a review of a Privacy Act which came into effect earlier this year and which has seen one school refuse to give school report cards to parents without their children's consent. Ruling National Party MP, Nick Smith, calling for an urgent review, said "the number of nutty rulings that are coming out of the act are a real cause for concern."

An opposition Labour MP, Clive Mathewson, told Radio New Zealand he knew of a case where a 12-year-old had refused permission for her parents to see the report and he claimed a kindergarten teacher told him four-year-olds are required to sign releases so teachers can report to parents. The act, which came into force on July 1 last year, strictly regulates the collection of information on individuals and jurisdiction is given to the "privacy commissioner" to police the act as well as to grant exemptions from its principles. Mr. Smith said he had been given examples of travel agencies refusing parents information about the arrival times of their children. The act was also a "legal nightmare" for health professionals, who technically were not allowed to pass on health information without the written consent of the person. "In emergency situations this is totally impractical," he said. In the rush to protect privacy, parliament had created a bureaucratic monster that needed taming.

Mr. Smith added, Privacy Commissioner Bruce Slane said the act meant schools should tell pupils what would be done with information gathered about them.

Family dine out on 'cockroach in my soup' scam

OSAKA, Japan (R) — "Waiter, there's a cockroach in my soup. I'm not going to pay for this meal." Japanese police said Monday that an out-of-town couple dined out on this ploy for several months, planting cockroaches in their food to avoid paying for expensive restaurant meals.

The scam, discovered two months ago but only just revealed by police, also involved the couple's son who would complain of fake stomach pains to give further credence to the story. A police spokesman said a search was still underway for the ex-truck driver who deserted his wife and 11-year-old son when their bluff was called at a top Osaka restaurant in October. After ordering a 37,000 yen (\$370) meal, the 34-year-old man put a cockroach in one dish of tempura sauce and shouted: "I found a cockroach and I'm going to the local health centre."

However, instead of giving in to the man's demands to be excused the bill, the restaurant staff called the police. By the time officers arrived, the man had fled. The wife later confessed they had pulled the trick several times since losing their jobs and leaving the home where they lived with the man's parents. The police spokesman said the wife told them most restaurants quickly gave in, up and some even gave in to the man's demand for 30,000 yen (\$300) "compensation."

Chinese convict in crime spree from jail

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese convict slipped repeatedly from his cell over the last year on a spree of robberies, rapes and murders before police tracked him to a local jail, the legal daily said Monday. The paper said Zhang Zhongyin, whose wife and son lived just 70 metres from the jail, carried out a string of robberies, rapes and at least four murders within a 40-kilometre radius of his prison in Hanyang in central Hubei province. Descriptions of the culprit finally narrowed the police search to a chemicals plant attached to a local labour camp, where Mr. Zhang confessed to the crimes, it said. Mr. Zhang, a repeat offender sentenced in 1992 to 8½ years in prison, had been put in a special cell. He would slip out at night, ride off on a bicycle and commit the rapes and robberies, the paper said. Authorities were investigating the case, it said.

Kurdish MPs' trial holds risks for Turkey

ANKARA (R) — A special security court is set to render judgment, including possible death sentences, on Thursday against eight Kurdish members of parliament on treason charges in a case that has alarmed Turkey's allies and would be partners in the West.

The parliamentarians, from the largely Kurdish southeast, were stripped of their immunity and accused of serving as a political front for the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party (PKK).

None has been charged with any act of violence, and the trial before the State Security Court — a holdover from the 1980 military coup era — has focused on alleged contacts with PKK leaders abroad.

One MP has also been accused of sheltering a wounded PKK guerrilla in his deputy's residence in an Ankara suburb.

The court last month

announced it would issue a ruling on Dec. 8, although some political analysts have suggested that the sensitive nature of the case may yet force a delay.

The trial has attracted the scrutiny of foreign MPs, editorial writers and rights groups, exposing a wide gap between Turkish and Western views of parliamentary democracy.

The defendants say their only crime was to voice their constituents' demands for increased political and cultural rights for Turkey's Kurds, estimated at about 15 per cent of the 60 million population.

"(Turkish) justice wants me condemned to death for my peaceful and legal activities carried out in my capacity as a member of parliament," said Leyla Zana, the only woman among the defendants, in a letter from prison.

Any legal defence was

beside the point, say the MPs, all but one member of the now banned Democratic Party (DEP).

"The verdict has already been made. It was made a long time ago," Yousef Alatas, lead attorney for the eight, told Reuters at the weekend. He said defence lawyers would make no summation in protest against the proceedings.

Prime Minister Tansu Ciller has already denounced the Kurdish deputies as "traitors under parliament's roof."

The security court hearing comes at a particularly perilous time for Turkey, eager for closer ties to Europe.

Ankara is expected to come under fire at the two-day summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which opened on Monday in Budapest, for its treatment of its Kurdish minor-

ity. A European Union (EU) summit meets in Essen, Germany, on Dec. 9-10, just after the Kurdish MPs' scheduled day in court.

And Turkey's 30-year bid for customs union with the EU will be considered in Brussels later this month.

Diplomats say customs union may eventually require final approval of the European Parliament.

In September, Europe's legislators ordered a freeze on cooperation with Turkey over the case, and one committee has nominated DEP's Zana for the parliament's Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought.

At the weekend, bomb blasts tore through three offices of Turkey's leading pro-Kurdish daily, killing one person and wounding 22. The daily Ozgur Ulke has close ties to the PKK.

In eastern Tunceli province, security forces have

deprived PKK rebels of food and shelter by the forced evacuation — and even torching — of largely Kurdish settlements.

More than 13,000 people in Turkey have died during the PKK's 10-year insurgency.

Recent suggestions by PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan that the rebels were prepared to soften demands for an independent Kurdish homeland have gone nowhere.

At the weekend, Mr. Ocalan said he had renounced aspirations for outright independence in line with what he said was a CSCE request to tone down his demands.

"We want to strengthen democracy in Turkey and strengthen the people. Turkey's unity or sovereignty is not under threat," Mr. Ocalan said in an interview with Ozgur Ulke. (See page 2)

أحمد الوائلي